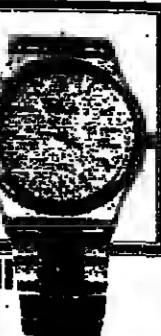


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ARAB TIMES

MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 1988

MUHARRAM 17, 1409 AH

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hatt Al Arab disputes block peace talks' progress

Algiers Treaty no longer exists: Iraq

GHDAD, Aug 28, (Agencies): Iraq said today that a 75 treaty with Iran, settling navigational and border disputes over the Shatt Al Arab waterway, no longer existed.

Saadoun Hammadi, Minister State for Foreign Affairs, was quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) as saying Iran had "try to negotiate a new pact."

Navigation rights in the waterway, Iraq's only major sea outlet, he believed the main obstacle to progress at the current United Nations-mediated direct peace talks in Geneva.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein repudiated the 1975 Algiers agreement on television a few days before the Iraqi Army invaded Iran on Sept. 22, 1980, after a series of border clashes.

Shortly before the Geneva talks resumed today, Tehran radio accused Iraq of putting forward irrelevant preconditions about the Shatt Al Arab.

Offer confirmed

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Kuwaiti says

US boxer

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It quoted sources close to the talks as saying the Iraqis wanted the waterway dredged before agreeing a date for the withdrawal of forces to international boundaries.

The 1975 agreement fixed the border along the middle of the deepest channel, giving Iraq navigation rights.

Hammadi said the pact no longer existed. The Iranians "had to behave realistically and get rid of illusions and ambitions and with to get illegal benefits at the expense of Iraq and to agree to work on finding a new treaty."

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said in Geneva on Friday that the treaty was one of his criteria for peace.

Progress

Hammadi said Iran had failed to respect one of the most important items of the treaty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

Tehran also failed to respect a provision that Iran should withdraw from Iraqi territory occupied in the Shah's time, he said, and was continuing to threaten Iraq's security.

Hammadi said this disrespect for the treaty forced Iraq to abrogate it "when it became useless because of Iran's behaviour."

Hammadi's statement came less than 24 hours after two members of Iraq's delegation to the Geneva talks conferred with Saddam on the progress of the

negotiations.

It was Iraq's first official confirmation in several years that it still regarded the 1975 Algiers agreement as void.

Hammadi said the Shatt Al Arab, which he described as the artery connecting Iraq with the outside world, had been under Iraqi sovereignty throughout past history.

"Any attempt aimed at affecting Iraq's sovereignty on this vital waterway will be met with full rejection and the Iranian side has to realize this truth and behave accordingly to serve a lasting and just peace between the two sides," he said.

Any procrastination by Iran on renegotiating a border treaty would "harm the peace process.. and the Iranian side will be responsible for the consequences," he said.

Faster

As the negotiators returned to the conference chamber in Geneva late this afternoon after a weekend break, UN spokesman Francois Giuliani said the talks were not deadlocked, but were progressing slower than hoped.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is chairing the talks, "has indicated he would like the negotiations to go faster, but there is no sense of frustration or dismay or despondency," Giuliani said.

"Asked if the talks were deadlocked or moving too slowly, he said: "Firstly, there is

not a deadlock, secondly it's moving, and thirdly, it depends what you mean by slowly."

It was not known how long Perez de Cuellar would personally moderate the talks before handing over to a representative, but his spokesman, Francois Giuliani, said he had to attend a meeting in Portugal on Thursday.

Break

The two sides have spent the break in the talks consulting with their governments. Two Iraqi delegates were due to return from Baghdad with new instructions from President Saddam Hussein.

The spokesman declined comment on a Kuwait News Agency report that Perez de Cuellar had suggested the proposed commission of enquiry be set up within 21 days of the ceasefire and present its findings within 90 days of the ceasefire.

The agency said the commission would comprise three neutral experts, including a chairman who would be a judge from the International Court of Justice in The Hague. It would be assisted by liaison officers from Iran and Iraq.

The official Iraqi News Agency said more than a dozen Iranian violations were reported to the UN peacekeepers between early Tuesday and early Friday. Neither Iran nor the observer force commented on the claims.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Spectators watch in horror as flames engulf cars hit by crashing Italian jets in an air show at US air base in West Germany. (Reuters photo)

34 die as jets plunge into crowds at W. German air show

RAMSTEIN, West Germany.

Aug 28, (Agencies): Thirty-four people were killed and 500 injured when three Italian Air Force jets collided in mid-air today and plunged in flames into air show spectators at a US air base in West Germany.

Aviation experts said it was the worst air show disaster on record involving spectators.

Five MB-339A trainer jets were flying about 50-80 metres (150-250 feet) above the spectators when two planes collided, tipping a third jet tail-first into the crowd. The two first jets crashed.

Police said tens of thousands of spectators were watching the air display when the craft turned a peaceful Sunday outing into an inferno.

Shocked and weeping, survivors milled around the airfield as smoke enveloped ambulances and helicopter rescue crews.

Environmental groups and local authorities had demanded the cancellation of the annual airshow after dozens of military crashes in recent months.

"This hospital is like a madhouse," Lundström hospital spokeswoman Brigitte de Jesus said. She said Americans and West Germans were among the injured.

Those killed included the pilots of the three planes and spectators hit by flames and debris from the crashing aircraft, which threw up fireballs on impact.

Witnesses told West German radio the planes were flying in a heart-shaped formation above the ground shortly before the collision.

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Critics

Defence Minister Rupert Scholz, who tried to mollify critics a month ago by making a slight cut in the number of low-altitude military training flights, reacted to today's tragedy by cancelling a West German military air show planned for September.

The Frecce Tricolore, based near the city of Udine in northern Italy, were founded in 1930 and are Italy's most experienced display team with 14 pilots.

The planes involved in the accident, the MB-339A, are Italian-built two-seater advanced training aircraft.

Freedom of hostages

Iran asks US to release assets

NEW YORK, Aug 28, (Reuters):

Pakistan's opposition leaders called on acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to replace the caretaker government with "neutral people."

The Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, a nine-party alliance, held a rally yesterday in Quetta, capital of Baluchistan province.

An estimated 20,000 supporters

waved banners and chanted anti-Zia slogans as speakers called for a neutral caretaker government to guide the nation to a return to civilian rule in general elections scheduled for Nov. 16.

Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistan People's Party leader, said that free and fair elections planned for Nov. 16 can only be ensured by a cabinet free of vested

interests.

Benazir, who is expecting her first child around November, did not attend the rally in Quetta.

Instead she issued a statement from her Karachi home expressing concern at the activities of the chief ministers of Pakistan's four provinces.

Shift

He called on Ishaq Khan to come out squarely for party-based elections instead of non-party polls ordered by Zia before his death.

In the first detailed Soviet press commentary on Zia's 11-year rule, Pravda said it hoped elections would take place, as scheduled.

It said the elections would bring a shift in Pakistani foreign policy, especially on Afghanistan, much to the discomfort of the United States.

Dealing with a breakaway faction of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML), which ruled Pakistan under Prime Minister Mohammad

Zia, Pravda said the PML would not be able to withstand a challenge from the breakaway group.

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Iran had asked the Anglican

Church to help to trace the missing

Iranians and offered to use its

influence in return.

Iran says the three

Iranian

hostages

are being held by the British

embassy. He refused to elaborate.

INTERNATIONAL

'Algiers Treaty no longer exists'

(Continued from Page 1)

In the northern region of Kurdistan, the Iranians set up two radar positions managed by three Iranian officers, not far from Iraqi troops, the agency said.

It said "appropriate measures were taken to eliminate the two positions and push the enemy back."

At the southern end of the front, Iranian soldiers fired shots but UN observers intervened to "stop the Iranian violations and returned two advancing Iranians to their positions," INA said.

In other parts of the front the Iranians set up barricades, fired a machine-gun, flew a helicopter near Iraqi positions and set up other radar and observation posts, the agency added.

In Baghdad, the head of the peacekeeping force, Maj. Gen. Slavko Jovic of Yugoslavia, said "the ceasefire is operational. The situation along the border is generally calm."

He said there had been no confirmed major violations of the ceasefire.

Jovic said an Iraqi report last week that an Iranian sniper had killed an Iraqi soldier was "unconfirmed," but was being investigated.

"We didn't see a body so we could not confirm that report," he said.

Determining

Jovic said the roughly 300 UN observers on the ground were in the process of determining the forward positions held by both sides when fighting halted in the nearly eight-year-old war.

Asked about alleged threats by anti-Iraqi Kurdish rebels that they would not guarantee the lives of UN observers, the general said: "Our UNIMOG are not facing such a threat or such an activity at the moment."

The body of a Danish observer who died on the front from heart-stroke, was taken to Baghdad international airport on the way to Denmark.

In Baghdad, the director of the Iraqi Ports Authority, Faith Mousa, said today that the country's Gulf ports were preparing to receive and service commercial ships for the first time since the outbreak of the war.

He said a number of ships bound for other ports would be diverted to Iraqi ones.

Belly landing

CHICAGO, Aug. 28. (AP): A TWA jet carrying 68 people made a belly landing yesterday at O'Hare international airport after its landing gear failed, and at least seven people were injured while evacuating on chutes, authorities said.

The injured people were taken by ambulance to four nearby hospitals, said a Fire Department communications officer who refused to identify himself.

Youths go on rampage**Bombings rock N. Ireland**

BELFAST, Aug. 28. (Reuters): Irish Republican Army sympathizers carried out nearly 200 attacks in Northern Ireland after a convicted IRA man was extradited from Dublin, police said today.

Three civilians — one of them a two-year-old child — were wounded in 23 shooting incidents and 17 bomb attacks in Belfast and the British province's second largest city, Londonderry, yesterday.

Violence

British troops fought snipers and petrol bomb throwers on the streets. The Royal Ulster Constabulary reported 193 attacks on its men and said a large number of policemen and a British soldier were hurt, none seriously.

Gunmen opened fire on a police station in West Belfast last night but no casualties were reported.

Rampage

He escaped from the Maze in 1983, four years into a 20-year sentence for the attempted murder of a police officer. He fled to the republic but was arrested and jailed in Dublin.

Intent

Sniper exchanged fire with troops late into last night as patrols moved slowly through Republican areas around falls road, a flashpoint of violence in the city.

In Londonderry, two elderly women were injured when a bomb exploded near an old people's home and in Belfast, a British soldier was wounded by a hand grenade, security officials said.

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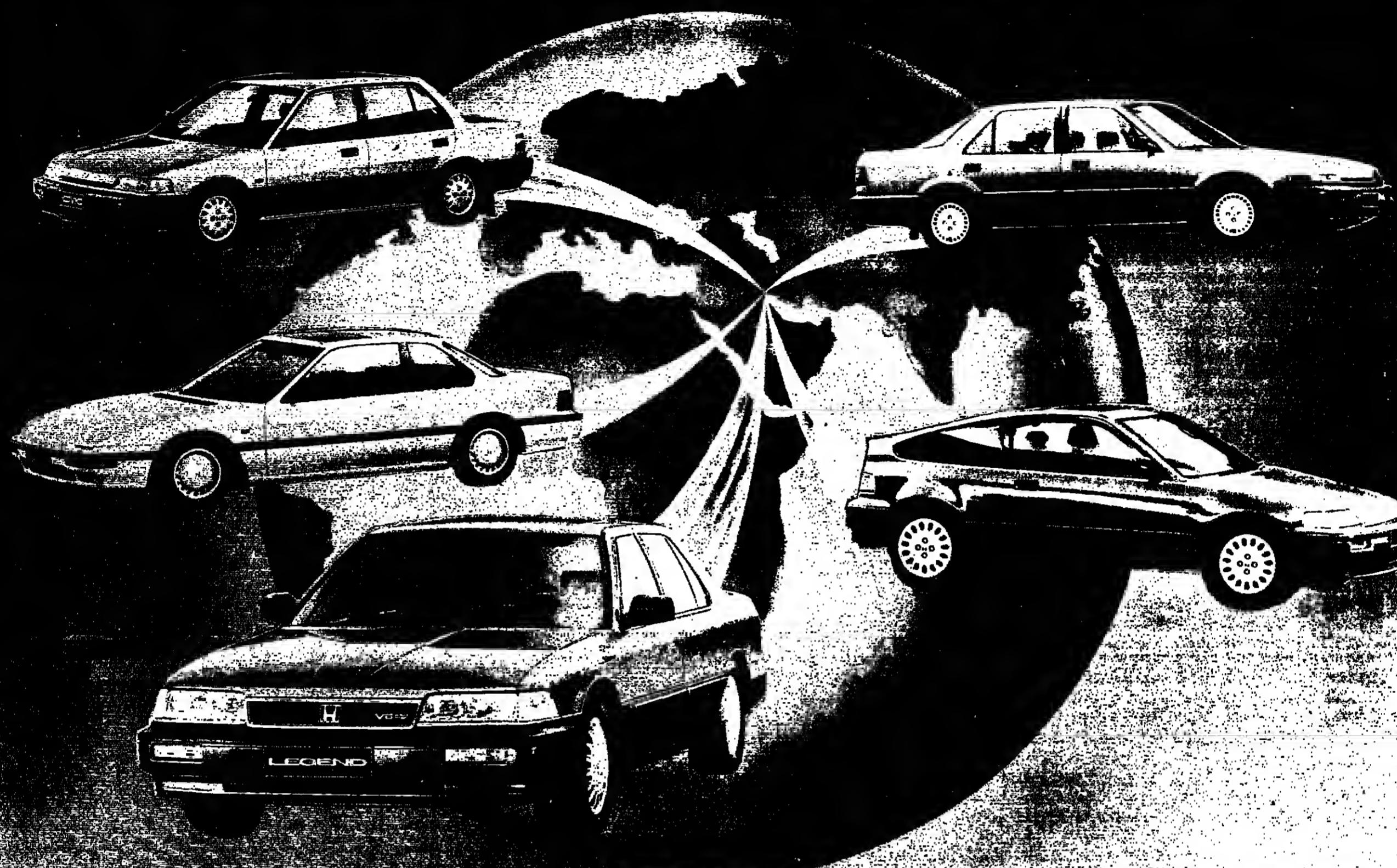
Intent

Sniper

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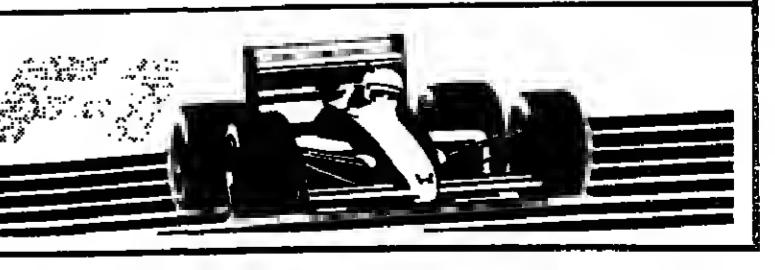
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Sheikh Sabah briefs cabinet on China visit

DEPUTY Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed briefed the Council of Ministers yesterday on his trip to China as a member of an Arab League committee.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed said Sheikh Sabah held talks with senior Chinese officials focused on developments in the Gulf war.

Topics

Among other topics discussed in yesterday's cabinet meeting, presided over by the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, was the Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva.

Al Rashed said the Council of Ministers hopes that "these talks need results to bring peace to the two neighbours and security in the region." Al Rashed said in a statement to reporters.

Sheikh Sabah also discussed the upcoming GCC Ministerial Council meeting which will be held next Sunday in Riyadh, the statement added.

The cabinet also reviewed a

letter sent recently to HH the Amir by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on the 19th anniversary of the burning of Al Aqsa Mosque.

Then, the statement added, the cabinet discussed the Amir's message as chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference on the issue of Namibia's day at the United Nations.

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Meanwhile, Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed spoke about Kuwait's



Sheikh Sabah

recent purchase of 40 F-18 fighter planes from the United States.

The deal, signed Saturday, followed the first official visit by Sheikh Saad to the United States.

Tareq Aziz meets Kuwaiti envoy

BAGHDAD, Aug 28, (KUNA): Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz, leading the Iraqi delegation to the Geneva peace talks with Iran, met there with Kuwait's permanent representative at the UN's European headquarters, Sheikh Salem Jaber Al Sabah, the Iraqi News Agency reported today.

In a dispatch from Geneva, INA said Aziz also met PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, who flew to Geneva yesterday for talks with UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the situation in occupied Palestine. Both meetings took place last night.

According to INA, discussions during the two meetings centred on the current UN-sponsored Gulf War peace talks on how to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Azz and Arafat reportedly also reviewed the nine-month old Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation and Jordan's disengagement from the West Bank.



The Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed (centre) and Minister of Oil Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa yesterday visited the Deputy Chief-of-Staff, Maj. Gen. Jaber Khaled Al Sabah to congratulate him on his recent promotion.

Danish foreign minister to visit Kuwait

THE Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark Uffe Elleman-Jensen will visit Kuwait Sept 3-4.

He has been invited by Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

Elleman-Jensen will be accompanied by a trade mission.

Troops will be withdrawn from islands



Maj. Gen. Jaber Khaled

By Faisal Al Quenai

SOME Kuwaiti forces stationed on Kuwait's islands and outlying territories will be withdrawn as soon as the Gulf war comes to a definite end, Deputy Chief-of-Staff of the Kuwait Army, Major General Jaber Khaled Al Sabah, announced yesterday.

Speaking to a group of Kuwaiti reporters who visited the ministry to congratulate him on his promotion and appointment as Deputy Chief-of-Staff, Major General Jaber also said that after the withdrawal of Army units, fishermen and other people will be allowed to visit the currently forbidden areas.

Only some points will be maintained for security reasons, he said, stressing that the military units were originally posted to protect the people.

Major General Jaber also noted that the promotions of conscript officers are under study. He added that promotions of regular Army men are proceeding according to the rules.

Head of afforestation committee

THE Council of Ministers has appointed the chairman and director general of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, Sheikh Ibrahim Duaij Al Sabah, as head of the Higher Committee for Afforestation.

The committee includes representatives of several ministries. It is expected to start work soon by implementing the afforestation plans in accordance with the wishes of HH the Amir.

The primary goal of the committee will be to increase the greenery, improve production in the agricultural sector, and beautify Kuwait.

Well-informed sources at the Council of Ministers said that all necessary funds for the afforestation programmes have been sanctioned.

Eye infection

A RESPONSIBLE source at the Ministry of Health announced yesterday that an eye infection known as trachoma affected 15.3 per cent of school children in the last academic year.

The source said that although the ministry took preventive measures, the percentage of infection is still high. This could partially be attributed to doctors who visit schools and do not transfer suspected trachoma cases to main clinics, he said.

Bishara in Qatar

DOHA, Aug 28, (KUNA): The secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Abdallah Yaqoub Bishara arrived here last night to meet the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani.

"The 'Qatari' News Agency quoted Bishara as saying that he will brief Sheikh Khalifa on the major issues to be discussed by the Ministerial Council of the

(GCC) in Riyadh on Sept 4.

The top GCC official will review with Sheikh Khalifa the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and the role played by the GCC members in establishing peace in the region.

Discussions will also include economic co-operation between the GCC countries until the coming GCC summit in Bahrain.

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Everyone has a key role to play: Al Nouri

Security of Kuwait emphasised

EDUCATION Minister Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri, addressing a Kuwaiti students conference on security on Saturday, said every individual has a key role to play in protecting Kuwait from threats and dangers, be they internal or external.

"Security is an integral and indivisible matter where every citizen, regardless of his profession, has a key role," he said.

Speech

Al Nouri was delivering a speech on behalf of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah who is sponsoring the five-day conference of the Kuwaiti Student Union.

The conference is meeting under the theme, "For Comprehensive Understanding of the Security Issue."

The slogan of the conference is



Al Nouri

a clear indication that Kuwaiti students are fully aware of Kuwait's and Arab nation's causes, Al Nouri said.

Kuwait to attend non-aligned meeting

KUWAIT will attend the Non-aligned Foreign Ministers Conference planned for Sept 7-10 in Cyprus.

Kuwait will be represented by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saad Al Ossai who will lead a delegation including Kuwait's permanent representative at the United Nations Mohammad Abu Hassan, the director of International Organisations at the ministry Dherar Rezouki and Dharai Al Ajran, a second secretary at the ministry. Rezouki told KUNA yesterday

Science Club celebrates 14th anniversary

THE Kuwait Science Club celebrated its 14th anniversary last week.

In the last 14 years the club has established itself as one of the bases of science in the country, a responsible source said.

The creation of a modern state and of the modern Kuwaiti go hand-in-hand, he said. We should pay special attention to the country's youth since they will shape Kuwait's future, he added.

Technological developments have increased the responsibility of the club to offer modern scientific education to children, he said.

The club has realised many of its goals, but is still working to achieve more on local, regional and international levels.

The club enjoys the patronage of senior officials of the state, especially HH the Amir and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Club. Membership has increased considerably.

The club participates in the activities of the Arab Union of Science Clubs and the International Organisation of Scientific and Technological Activities of which the club is a founder member.

KISR laboratory

A REPORT issued by the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), has shown that the central analysis laboratory of the institute is working to meet the demands of research departments with regard to chemical analysis.

The report showed that the lab is still experiencing some difficulties performing its duties. It called on researchers to provide the lab with accurate information about projects and require analytical services, to co-operate with laboratory staff and to provide them with necessary samples.

Meeting

THE General Director of Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Duaij yesterday received the newly-appointed ambassador to Japan, Adel Aziz Al Sharekh, and the ambassador to Belgium, Ahmad Al Ibrahim.

NHA to distribute houses and plots

THE National Housing Authority (NHA), is implementing the Third Five-Year Plan aimed at building and distributing 25,000 houses and plots, according to the director general of NHA, Dr Ibrahim Al Shaheen.

The official said that adequate lands have been allocated, and was optimistic that a majority of the units will be completed within the next two years.

The director general said that preparations are under way for the Fourth Five-Year Plan which is scheduled to begin in 1990 and be completed by 1995.

The NHA suffers from shortage of lands to successfully implement the fourth plan, he said. Contacts had been initiated with the Municipality to procure lands to accommodate more than 25,000 housing units. The

problem was also reviewed by the Higher Housing Council, he said.

Al Shaheen said he hopes the new plan will reduce the period citizens have to wait to get government houses, despite the increasing number of applications.

He added that the essence of the coming plan is to make optimum use of lands. Officials are considering building flats instead of separate villas. Another alternative is construction of smaller villas. These considerations are being reviewed by the Higher Housing Council, he said.

The official also said that NHA will celebrate Housing Week scheduled for Oct 12, which coincides with the International Housing Day.

Meanwhile, Al Shaheen said the company will organise another five fairs before the end of the year, including a gifts fair, a costume fair and the Arab book fair, scheduled from Nov 23 to Dec 3.

The company organised 17 exhibitions in 1987.

Abu Halifa lacks essential services

WITH a population of almost 13,050 and beaches which attract residents from all over Kuwait, the Abu Halifa area still lacks fundamental services and utilities, the mukhtar (mayor) and residents say.

The area does not have amenities, such as co-operative societies and good clinics.

The police station is only a chalet and the post office is a garage rented by the Ministry of Communications. Supermarkets are non-existent, so residents must buy from small grocery shops which charge high prices for their goods.

King Hussein in Jeddah for talks

JEDDAH, Aug 28, (AP): King Hussein of Jordan arrived today on one of his frequent trips to Saudi Arabia for consultations with King Fahd.

Since his last visit to Saudi Arabia, Hussein has announced he is severing links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

A UN sponsored ceasefire has also taken effect along the Iraq-Iran war front and UN peace talks have been initiated for a

Educational Supplies Fair

SALEH Al Harbi, director of public relations at the Kuwait International Fair Co., has been quoted as saying that 34 companies will participate in the fourth Educational Supplies Fair, at the International Fairground in Mishref from Aug 31 to Sept 9.

He will be followed by the Foreign Minister of Zimbabwe whose country hosted the last summit conference.

Re-unification

Conference sources said the Cypriot Government has high hopes for the conference because it hopes the ministers will support its efforts for the re-unification of the divided island.

The sources added that two documents highlighting the movement's position on political and economic issues will be adopted at the conference.

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General held for ordering attack on Seoul editor

SEOUL, Aug 28, (Reuters): Military investigators have detained a South Korean general for ordering an attack on a journalist who criticised the Army, state radio reported today.

Oh Hong-Kyun, city editor of the Joongang Economic Daily, wrote that the Army was the source of many of the country's problems. He is still in hospital after being stabbed in the leg by a four-man team led by a major three weeks ago.

The four have been arrested.

Detained Brigadier-General Lee Kyu-Hong, commander of an Army intelligence unit, admitted ordering his men to assault the journalist, the Korea Broadcasting System said.

An Army spokesman declined comment on the report.

Political commentators said the Aug 6 attack could lead to the sacking of Defence Minister Oh Ja-Bok. Oh heads security operations for the Seoul Olympics, which open in 20 days.

The radio said another brigadier-general from Army intelligence headquarters was being questioned on charges that he tried to cover-up the assault.

The military earlier this week said the four men were solely responsible for the attack but promised to continue investigating after pressure from members of parliament.

Police said they were also questioning a Korean resident of Japan for trying to smuggle four pistols into South Korea.

Police were investigating if the man had connections with terrorist groups who might try to disrupt next month's Olympics in Seoul, police officials said.

More relief aid airlifted to Sudan

KHARTOUM, Aug 28, (UPI): Belgian, Saudi, Egyptian and Libyan transport planes today began an emergency airlift of food and medical supplies to isolated areas of Sudan struck by the country's worst ever flooding.

A government spokesman said a Belgian military transport began a planned 5-day shuttle of relief supplies to the hard hit northern town of Merowe and the other foreign aircraft began similar missions inside Khartoum province and central Sudan.

The government committee running the emergency operation which follows torrential rains since Aug 4 that left more than 1.5 million people destitute and homeless nationwide, said the north would be given top priority for incoming international aid.

A Red Cross aerial survey last week showed the Nile Valley between Athara and Dongola, 500 km northwest of the capital, was badly hit by flooding and up to 100,000 people without food or medical supplies were homeless and trapped by the water.

Around 25 per cent of all houses were destroyed in the region, the survey showed.

The situation further north is thought just as critical with dozens of once inhabited islands



Aquino watches two women soldiers lay a wreath on the Tomb of Unknown Soldier during the National Heroes' Day ceremony at a suburban military camp in Manila. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fears of another coup bid dispelled

Aquino honours soldiers

MANILA, Aug 28, (UPI): President Corazon Aquino celebrated her first full year without a serious military challenge to her authority today by honouring soldiers who died defending her government in last year's bloodiest Aug 28 coup attempt.

The year of relative stability followed a string of five major coup attempts and several other plots during the first 18 months of her administration.

Speaking at a suburban military camp on the Philippines' National Heroes' Day, Aquino paid tribute to "the soldiers and officers who fought and gave their lives to defend the state ... and to uphold the democracy that is its soul."

"They fell on this day last year

in the greatest battle waged to defend our ... democracy," Aquino said. "That battle separated the chaff from the grain, the traitors ... from the soldiers of the republic."

Disgruntled soldiers led by Col Gregorio Honasan staged the fifth and gravest attempt to overthrow the Aquino government Aug 28, 1987, resulting in the deaths of 53 soldiers and civilians and the wounding of more than 300 people, including Aquino's only son.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos dispelled fears of another coup bid as the military went on full alert this morning, a routine procedure in advance of Aquino's scheduled departure Monday for a three-day visit to Brunei.

"She can do all the things she wants to do and she can come back here and find the safe and secure," Ramos said.

Meanwhile, Honasan relaxed in a chauffeur-driven car that cruised around Manila and said

he would continue to fight to oust President Aquino.

Last night, the eve of the first anniversary of his nearly successful coup attempt, Honasan said he was working on winning new recruits.

The 40-year-old spoke to a reporter in a car that was driven around the capital, where 13,000 troops were on full alert over coup rumours.

"A coup is always a possibility when there's a good chance of success and proper timing. When we have enough forces in our inventory, we will definitely make a try for it but that will be supportive of a political move."

Headed: "Anything can happen. It may be bloody. It may be peaceful. All of sudden, Cory (Aquino) might step down."

Honasan said his group might "gravitate" to but not really align with the new opposition coalition announced on Saturday by Vice President Salvador Laurel, if it abandoned "political manoeuvring."

Egypt backs Indonesia

CAIRO, Aug 28, (Reuters): Egypt said today it supported Indonesia's bid to become chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement when it meets in Cyprus next month.

"The Non-Aligned Movement will be in good hands with Indonesia," Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Maguid told reporters after a meeting between President Hosni Mubarak and Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas.

Alatas, who arrived on Saturday for a three-day visit ahead of the Sept 5 meeting of Non-Aligned foreign ministers, said he handed Mubarak a message from President Suharto on bilateral ties and co-ordination at the Nicosia meeting.

He said he exchanged views with Mubarak on relations between Cairo and Jakarta, both founding members of the 101-

member movement, and thanked him for his support.

Abdel Maguid, who will have more talks with Alatas to prepare for the Cyprus meeting, said Egypt and Indonesia had identical views on international issues.

Foreign ministers of the 101 member states of the Non-Aligned group are to meet Sept 5-10 in Nicosia, Cyprus. Indonesia and Egypt along with Yugoslavia and India co-founded the Non-Aligned Movement, which held its inaugural conference in 1960 in Belgrade, the Yugoslav capital.

Indonesian officials in Jakarta said Alatas' current tour is to drum up support for Indonesia's bid to host the next Non-Aligned summit in 1989. The host country ordinarily chairs the Non-Aligned group for three years until the next summit is held.

Students relaunch banned union

Burma faces total anarchy

RANGOON, Aug 28, (Reuters): Burmese students today defiantly declared the reformation of their disbanded union and the country's leading opposition figure warned Burma was on the brink of anarchy.

Aung Gyi, released last week after nearly a month in jail for his opposition activities, told Reuters in an interview: "We are on the verge of anarchy. The situation is almost out of control."

Tens of thousands of students gathered at Rangoon University and declared unilaterally that their union, banned after the 1982 military coup, was reformed, and said the university would reopen on Monday.

Newspapers in the capital of three million people were virtually finished and food supply had broken down.

Aung Gyi said he feared food riots and more looting, particularly of rice, the staple food of the impoverished country's 38 million people.

The government under President Maung Maung has said it backs a referendum to determine if the people want a multi-party democracy after 26 years of socialism which has taken Burma from being one of Asia's premier rice exporters to one of the world's poorest multi-party democracy.

Aung Gyi, a 59-year-old retired brigadier said: "Time is running out. The government must act quickly to give the people democracy."

The move by the students, who have spearheaded the revolt, to proclaim a new student union to mastermind the fight for democracy was the first major

step to unify popular dissent.

They elected a committee to fight for democracy, the first overt student group since former strong-man ruler Ne Win banned student unions in 1964.

New threat

The prospect of a unified opposition posed a major new threat to the government facing mass demands for its leaders to step down.

Residents said petrol supplies in the capital of three million people were virtually finished and food supply had broken down.

Aung Gyi, who was alongside Ne Win in the 1962 coup but fell out with his mentor a year later, said the government's proposed timetable for a referendum leading to democratic general elections would take too long to satisfy the people.

He ruled himself out as a leader of any interim government. "I don't want to lead it. I'm too old and I have a heart ailment," he said.

The campus rally indicated that students were prepared to move more into the open, but identities of the executive committee members were not revealed and little was known about the union leader although his name has been affixed to many anti-government pamphlets in recent weeks.

"We must carry on with unity and diligence and without resorting to violence until our goal for the revival of democracy in the country is achieved," Min Ko Naiing said. "We are fighting for democracy and we are not interested in participating in the government."

He said after democracy was won, a national student convention would be held to elect a permanent leadership for the union.

Underground students unions began to operate about three years ago and students — their faces masked to prevent identification by authorities — were at the forefront of bloody, anti-government demonstrations last March and June.

They were on the streets again last month. Many were surprised at their ability to organise and motivate tens of thousands of protesters. Swedish Burma scholar Bertil Linter described their organisational style as "elastic and fluid, based on trust and secrecy" to prevent infiltration by security services which decimated activist ranks in the past.

Soviet-Afghan joint venture in space

MOSCOW, Aug 28, (Reuters): The first Afghan space traveller blasts off with two Soviet cosmonauts in Islamabad reported that Bamyan city 120 kilometres northwest of Kabul had killed four people but made no mention of an attack on the airport.

Control

Muslim guerrillas were holding two Afghan provincial capitals and were battling the communist regular Army for two others, according to reports received today.

Official Radio Kabul said government forces had to "change the status of their deployment" in central Bamyan province following several days of fighting with

extremists and war-mongering elements."

Rebel leaders and Western diplomats in Islamabad reported that Bamyan city 120 kilometres northwest of Kabul had killed four people but made no mention of an attack on the airport.

In northern Takhar province, the capital of Taloqan has been in guerrilla hands since the Soviets on Aug 15 reached the halfway point of their phased pullout from Afghanistan.

At that time, the insurgents also overran Kunduz city in neighbouring Kunduz province, but government forces, with heavy Soviet air support, wrested the city back days later, according to combined reports.

The rebels have since laid siege to Kunduz and the southeastern provincial capital of Kandahar.

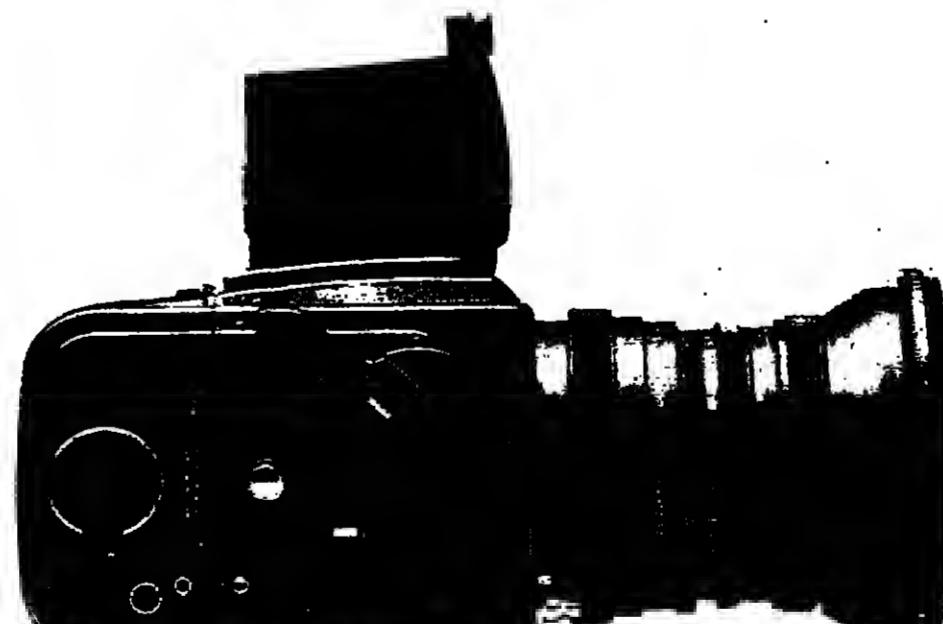
"The doctor will remain in space until the end of the mission," an official of the Glavkosmos space authority said. He said the other two visitors would return on Sept 6.

Two Soviet-Afghan crews have been in final training at Baikonur since Aug 18. Barriing last-minute changes, Soviet pilot Vladimir Lyakhov, physician Valery Polyakov and Afghan space researcher Abdul Ahad Mohmand will make the flight.

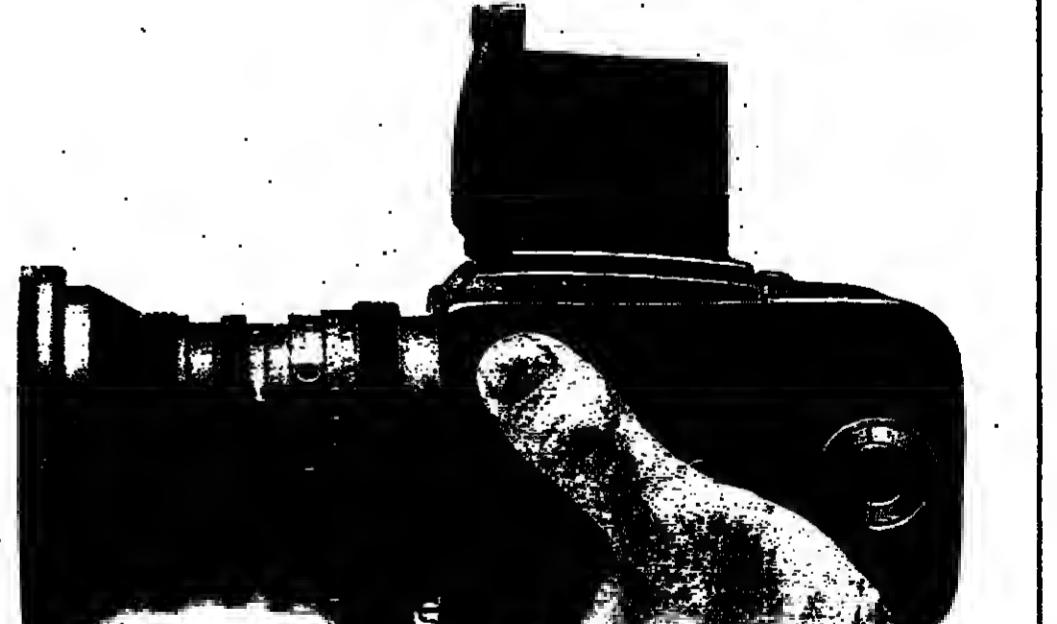
Lyakhov, 47, is a space veteran with two previous lengthy missions to his credit. In 1979, he spent more than five months aboard the Salyut-6 space station and in 1983 was launched to Salyut-7, MIR's forerunner, for a 150-day stay.

Polyakov, 46, is making his first space flight and will have the task of monitoring the health of Titov and Manarov.

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EVENTS

KUWAIT VIDEO ROUNDUP

Fighting for an obscure cause

By Fathima Ahmed

FILM heroes—and villains—fight for the same cause, mostly obscure and best known to themselves. They come in style, live gloriously, fight (un)heroically and agonise you as long as the video is on but vanish from memory once you switch it off.

The hero and the villain are a breed apart and forgettable.

As Kanwarlal (Jeetendra), or Natwarlal (Amitabh Bachchan) the hero manages to rattle your nerves. You see red every time he appears, invariably in white trousers, white shoes and white scarf, feet first, as Kanwarlal does. You can't help but wince when someone in the film comments about Kanwarlal's "imposing, handsome personality". Utterly funny would have been a more appropriate description. Hair plastered on his scalp, wearing dark glasses and a scarf, he saunters into court like a lord to fight his first (legal) battle with

his arch rival, Suraj Prakash, (the light of the rising sun), a slimy politician, played by Raj Babbar, who wants to grab Kanwarlal's entire fortune.

Now legal rascals d'etre explains the enmity between Kanwarlal and Suraj Prakash. Perhaps, none exists. The feud, if it can be called that, begins after Suraj refuses "goodwill money" from Kanwarlal.

They fight tooth and nail to get at each other's throat, trying to outwit each other in a series of legal moves, best described as child's play to settle their dispute. After three hours of brain wracking you don't know why they were fighting.

Maybe, it was a plain good-vs-evil war. No, not true. Kanwarlal expressly tells us, in verse, there is a little bit of evil in everyone, no one's perfect.

Maybe, the conflict was about a woman. No, no. Suraj Prakash ditches lawyer Sandhya, a fiery woman upholding values (for a better part of the film), who shifts loyalty to Kanwarlal, her "friend and



Rishi Kapoor and Sonam in Vijay.

mentor." No one minds.

Perhaps, they wanted to "clean up" the state of affairs. Minister Mahadev Suraj Prakash is neck deep in dirt; Kanwarlal throws some of it around. When everyone is corrupt what are they opposing? One gives up. Maybe, people with better intellects might find sense in the nonsensical theme.

The only tolerable character in Kanwarlal is John, Johnny Janardhan (Amjad Khan). J.J. explains his presence in three languages, just in case you miss the point. Raj Babbar, as the glib talking politician fits the bill; Jeetendra, acceptable as the jumping jack, seems awkward as godfather Kanwarlal.

In contrast, Yash Chopra's

mentor. "No one minds. Perhaps, they wanted to "clean up" the state of affairs. Minister Mahadev Suraj Prakash is neck deep in dirt; Kanwarlal throws some of it around. When everyone is corrupt what are they opposing? One gives up. Maybe, people with better intellects might find sense in the nonsensical theme.

Though Chopra is not presenting a novel theme, he manages to sustain interest by deft handling, showing Yodhraj's eccentricity growing in each frame.

Arrogant Yodhraj believes in the power of wealth, generally having his own way and walking over people. When daughter Sumai (Hema Malini) marries his employee, he disassociates himself from her. After son Shashi (Raj Babbar in a brief cameo) chooses his bride, he gives her a blank cheque, the price to leave his son.

Fate intervenes but not before emotional conflicts erupt, followed by highly charged speeches by the protagonists. Arjun, Gujral (Saeed Jaffrey) and Ajit (Rajesh Khanna).

Each star has a specific role in the film. Anil Kapoor's job is to reform grandpa; Rishi Kapoor's is to romance a scantly clad Sonam on land and in air. Meenakshi Seshadri plays Arjun's girlfriend. Rajesh Khanna plays a bit role as Suman's estranged husband. Anupam Kher gives a powerful performance as the eccentric millionaire, evoking sympathy and hatred for the character. Raj Babbar breezes through his guest role. Anil and Rishi share the brawls, songs and monologues. Sultry Meenakshi, a graceful dancer, is a beautiful prop and looks stunning in some sequences, particularly during her second meeting with Arjun. Soniam, who makes her debut in the film, dares to bare but is below average in looks and performance.

The above films are by courtesy of Aharti Video, Main St., Farwaniya. Tele: 4712900.



Jeetendra stars in Kanwarlal.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum: The museum will be open to the public every evening from 5 pm and from 9 am on Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum: The museum, located on Arab Gulf Street, is open from 8:30 am to 12:30 noon and 4:30 to 7:30 pm, Saturday to Thursday. A collection of the finest Islamic art objects are on show.

Tareq Rajab Museum: The museum in Jibrayia houses a collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world. Summer timings are 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, Sat. thru Thurs. On Friday the museum is open only in the mornings.

SOCIAL

Welcome Back to Kuwait

The Sounds Great organisation will hold a "Welcome Back to Kuwait" party at the Messilah Beach hotel on Sept 29 at 8 pm. The Sounds Great bands will be in attendance. For table reservations, ring Ken Winston or Adol 5740256/7 or 5758870.

Country Western

The American Community Theatre is rounding up singers, dancers and musicians for their annual Country and Western musical, to be held at the end of September. Interested talents, contact Nancy Parker 2523911 ext. 2346, 5725071 (evenings) or Nola Anderson 2428366.

Indian Ballet

Narathana, a dance troupe led by Muhiniyattam exponent Mrs Prameela Surendran, will stage a ballet, Panchavadi, and a number of Nritihasilpas at its annual show, Nritihas, at the Indian Arts Circle, on Sept 22 at 7:00 pm. Admission will be strictly limited; for free passes, call 4337608.

Sounds Great

Auditions will be held on Sept 15-17 for singers and dancers for the next Sounds Great show, to be held at the Salimiyah cinema on Oct 19-22. For details ring Ken Winston or Adol 5740256/7 or 5758870.

Y.M.C.A.

The Y.M.C.A. will present the "Come September Ball" at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on September 1 at 8:30 pm. Highlights include the selection of the Queen of Queens. Top Ranks and Stepping Stones will be in attendance. For reservations, contact J D'Sa at 2450279, 3981790, 3924659.

Varca Sporting Centre: Varca Sporting Centre will hold their third annual social evening at the Tent SAS hotel on Sept 22 at 8:00 pm. Music will be provided by Top Ranks and Stepping Stones. For

reservations and further details, contact Roland 2430581 or James 5331940.

HOTELS

At the Holiday Inn

Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop offers international buffet meals at lunch and dinner from 6 am to 1 pm; a la carte also available. Fresh pastries and cakes can be bought every day at the Viennese Cafe. The Hanging Babylon Gardens are an ideal place to relax with friends.

At the Meridien

Mango promotion, featuring wide variety of mango preparations including salads, cocktails and mango ice cream, until Aug 31.

SPORTS

IVth Winners Cup

The YMCA will hold the All Kuwait Open IVth Winners Cup cricket tournament, beginning Sept 16. It will be played on Fridays and holidays at the Ahmadi Governorate ground located behind the Computer Centre. Teams wishing to participate can contact Joe D'Sa, Tel: 3981790, 3-5 pm; 3924659, 5-8 pm.

Masters Bowling Tournament

Semi-finals and final rounds for the Masters tournament for men and women will be held on Thursday, 6:30 pm, Sept. 1, and Friday, 9 am, Sept. 2. Forty-eight top bowlers will play in the men's division on Thursday. Eight players will play in the women's division on Friday. All qualifiers must come on Thursday at 3:00 Club, behind US Embassy.

At the Kuwait Plaza

The Al Dallah coffee shop offers buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as a set menu mini business lunch, ice-cream festival at the International Food Arcade, light snacks also available, open 10:00 am to 11:00 pm.

Enjoy Turkish cuisine, a la carte, at the Bosphorus restaurant. Open for lunch and dinner every day except Saturday. The Marco Polo restaurant offers Italian food, live music and a candlelight atmosphere.

There is a Filipino Night every Sunday 7:00 to 9:30 pm; live entertainment provided.

At the Continental

The Gardenia, open from 7 am to midnight, offers buffets featuring Arabic, Continental and Indian food at dinner on Thursday and at lunch on Friday.

The Darbar offers lunch buffet every Thursday. A la carte for dinner.

At the Hilton

La Palma has introduced a new 12-day buffet cycle featuring Arab specialties; open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner, from 6:30 am to midnight.

At the Failaka restaurant, select from a wide variety of dishes to make your own table top buffet. The Magnetic Band provides live music in the evenings. Open every day 12:30 pm to 3 pm and 7:30-11:30 pm.

Boy's Own Club

Boy's Own Club will organise a seven-a-side one-day football festival on the holiday declared to mark the Prophet's birthday (Oct 22/23). Interested teams can contact Milagres 3967446 or Joe D'Souza 4813622.

At the Sheraton

Enjoy Italian cuisine and live entertainment by the Sienna's Duo at the Riccardo restaurant. Riccardo's is closed on Fridays. A selection of seafood is offered at Al Hamra on Wednesday night. The Marcus Band provide live entertainment. Special lunch and dinner buffets are offered to patrons of Le Tarboche.

At Messilah Beach

Al Mubarakiyah restaurant, open 24 hours, offers buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as a variety of snacks.

At the Holiday Inn

Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop offers international buffet meals at lunch and dinner from 6 am to 1 pm; a la carte also available. Fresh pastries and cakes can be bought every day at the Viennese Cafe. The Hanging Babylon Gardens are an ideal place to relax with friends.

At the Meridien

Mango promotion, featuring wide variety of mango preparations including salads, cocktails and mango ice cream, until Aug 31.

SPORTS

IVth Winners Cup

The YMCA will hold the All Kuwait Open IVth Winners Cup cricket tournament, beginning Sept 16. It will be played on Fridays and holidays at the Ahmadi Governorate ground located behind the Computer Centre. Teams wishing to participate can contact Joe D'Sa, Tel: 3981790, 3-5 pm; 3924659, 5-8 pm.

Masters Bowling Tournament

Semi-finals and final rounds for the Masters tournament for men and women will be held on Thursday, 6:30 pm, Sept. 1, and Friday, 9 am, Sept. 2. Forty-eight top bowlers will play in the men's division on Thursday. Eight players will play in the women's division on Friday. All qualifiers must come on Thursday at 3:00 Club, behind US Embassy.

At the Kuwait Plaza

The Al Dallah coffee shop offers buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as a set menu mini business lunch, ice-cream festival at the International Food Arcade, light snacks also available, open 10:00 am to 11:00 pm.

Enjoy Turkish cuisine, a la carte, at the Bosphorus restaurant. Open for lunch and dinner every day except Saturday. The Marco Polo restaurant offers Italian food, live music and a candlelight atmosphere.

There is a Filipino Night every Sunday 7:00 to 9:30 pm; live entertainment provided.

At the Continental

The Gardenia, open from 7 am to midnight, offers buffets featuring Arabic, Continental and Indian food at dinner on Thursday and at lunch on Friday.

The Darbar offers lunch buffet every Thursday. A la carte for dinner.

At the Hilton

La Palma has introduced a new 12-day buffet cycle featuring Arab specialties; open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner, from 6:30 am to midnight.

At the Failaka restaurant, select from a wide variety of dishes to make your own table top buffet. The Magnetic Band provides live music in the evenings. Open every day 12:30 pm to 3 pm and 7:30-11:30 pm.

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CINEMA TODAY

PRAYERS

WANTED

ADVERTISMENT

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Good Morning
9.30 Space Adventurer: cartoon serial

10.15 8 Harar Al Bahar: daily serial

11.00 News Summary followed by songs and music.

11.15 Bu Saeb Yureedu Halani: local serial

12.00 News Summary

12.15 Cultural Film

1.00 News Summary

1.05 World News via Satellite

1.30 Songs and Music

2.35 Araq Al Daliyah: episode 6 of Arabic series

3.35 Heidi: cartoons

4.15 Football: Kuwait vs Maseehah. Qualifier for 1988 Asian Cup.

6.00 Mama Asiana and Children

7.10 Alwan

7.50 Quran and Science

8.30 Wa Qalat Al Arah: Arabic serial

9.00 News in Arabic

9.50 Al Saqiyah Tadour: Arabic series

10.50 Al Uzaab Al Salasa: Arabic feature film. Starring: Suad Husni, Adel Mamoun, Hassan Yusuf, Abdul Munim Ibrahim. Based on an English play.

12.15 News Summary



Miami Vice, featuring Don Johnson, at 8.40 pm on KTV 2.

12.20 World News via Satellite

12.50 Holy Quran/Close-down

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran

6.10 Galata: cartoons

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'A firework display of rainbow - coloured rubbish'
 'Kitsch beyond the wildest bad dream'
 'A phantasmagoria of so-called art'

Elton John's \$6 million 'garage sale'

By Gregory Jensen

LONDON, (UPI) — Rock star Elton John is having a 'garage sale' — about \$6 million worth — to empty his house and his life of what one critic calls 'a phantasmagoria of so-called art.'

These days people are streaming into London's Victoria and Albert museum for an eye-popping pre-sale glimpse of what John spent 20 years collecting — his flamboyant stage costumes, extravagant furniture, glass and art deco dancing girls, the whole bizarre and sometimes beautiful accumulation of a magpie hoarder.

"I'm changing direction now," says John, 40. "I'm doing this so we can start again. I'm going to be ultra modern."

John is getting rid of so much that Sotheby's auction house is taking four September days to sell it all. The Victoria and Albert, in the first such collaboration between a major museum and an auctioneer, is showing a mere quarter of his 2,000-item hoard.

"I've always tried collecting with a sense of humour, and there are things that are ridiculous and hideous," John said at a show preview. "That's almost an understatement."

"There's his Magritte painting of a swimming fish draped with strings of pearls. There's his diamond brooch shaped like cartoon bear Winnie the Pooh, and the 5-foot (1.5 m) boots he wore in the movie *Tommy*, and his Capt. Fantastic pinball machine."

But there are also etchings by Rembrandt and Picasso, gorgeous Lalique glass, a flock of art deco and art nouveau pieces a museum official said "are good enough to kill for."

Elton John seems to have been like an Australian Bower Bird, which decorates its nest with anything that glitters. He sought out the gaudy, the



Elton John stands proudly with some choice pieces from his collection. He sought out the gaudy, the bizarre and the peculiar and crammed his home with it.

bizarre and the peculiar crammed his home with it.

"His house just got so crowded that he had to fight his way to his bedroom," said a Sotheby's spokeswoman.

"There's been so much stuff it's been like walking into a warehouse," John said. "I want somewhere to sit rather than somewhere to stand."

A video half-hidden in the museum display shows snapshots of John's overstuffed house near Windsor, England, so packed that Sotheby chairman Lord Gowrie called it "an Aladdin's cave, a magic toy shop."

John isn't merely weeding

out. He's selling everything — his gold records, backstage passes to his stage shows, 100 pairs of his trademark spectacles, from the specs with feathers to those with red-white-blue light bulbs modestly spelling "Elton."

Art critics are having a field day lambasting his taste. One said his collection is a firework display of rainbow-coloured rubbish. Another called it "kitsch beyond the wildest bad dream."

"John," said a third, "didn't collect; he shopped. A rich child with unlimited amounts of money, John brought little knowledge, discipline or discern-

ment to his impulse buying." Yet he bought some great names — Tiffany lamps, furniture with exotic embroidery designed by Raoul Dufy, costume designs by Erte. His extraordinary furniture by Carlo Bugatti is the largest group in private hands.

John concentrated on the first 30 years of this century. Some of his most beautiful pieces are glass from that period. Even here he couldn't resist the bizarre — one Lalique vase is in the shape of a coiled serpent.

But the result is a phenomenal assembly of every kind of art nouveau and art deco object. Two cases in the museum hold 36 art deco dancing girls, sinuous ivory and metal statuettes. There are clocks, gem-set boxes, a wondrous collection of glass, jewellery which a critic said "oddly mixes the tastes of a conservative duchess and a mid-thirties flapper."

"I had no idea how well I was buying," John told one interviewer. He paid good prices in the early 1970s, but values have skyrocketed since then.

Gaudy

Besides what he bought, 25 of John's famous stage costumes are lined in a gaudy rank at the museum, including his Statue of Liberty costume made of silver sequins. He's selling them all.

He's unloading jewels he wore on album cover-photographs, his often odd oil paintings, his surrealist sculptures, and 1930s racing-car teapots.

So great is the interest in the button-nosed singer's trinkets that samples have been shown Tokyo, New York, Los Angeles, Sydney and now London.

Sotheby's is holding two or three sale sessions a day at the Sept. 6-9 auction. The four catalogues alone cost 40 pounds (\$68).

American designer succeeds, where Bernini failed

Architectural revolution at the Louvre

By William Echikson

PARIS — In 1546, King Francois I began building the Louvre. Future French kings added elegant ballways, sumptuous salons, and palatial living rooms. Napoleon I designed an entire courtyard. Napoleon III constructed two more wings.

Francois Mitterrand is just as ambitious.

Over the objections of horrified traditionalists and reluctant conservative ministers, the Socialist French President is putting his own grandiose and expensive mark on the former royal palace, now one of the world's great museums. As part of a long-overdue renovation project, a 66-foot-high glass pyramid designed by the American architect I.M. Pei will open in the Louvre's central courtyard early next fall. The pyramid will serve as the new museum entrance and, Mr. Mitterrand hopes, a powerful symbol for his presidential reign. Its sleek, modern shape promises to become the most famous reminder of the President's huge public building programme for the French capital, which includes a new opera house, two big music halls, two new museums, and a communications centre.

"We must prove that France is a modern country, a country of the future," says Christian Sauveterre, Assistant Secretary General of the presidential Elysee Palace. "Former President (Valery) Giscard d'Estaing didn't build much. He told us that we were a small country with average capabilities. These projects will illustrate France's proper role, its greatness."

The pyramid represents much more than a simple building project. It stands for the French nation.

"When French kings finally united France, they set up court in the Louvre," explains Jean-Baptiste Vaquin, a director of the renovation project. "The Louvre symbolizes the glory of the king and of the state."

In the United States, the rich underwrite symphony halls and museums. In France, the

state is the patron. Paris always has been defined by the state-built monuments which stand along the Seine, the Concorde, the Grand Palais, the Tour Eiffel, and, of course, the Louvre.

"We need the touch of the prince," Mr. Vaquin hypothesizes. "Louis XVI had his Versailles. President Mitterrand has the Louvre."

Tampering with the soul of

any nation is a touchy matter, and the Louvre always has inspired rivalry. The great French architect Francois Mansart had 15 projects for redesigning the palace rejected 300 years ago. Bernini, the architect of St. Peters in Rome, was sent back to Italy when he tried to touch the Louvre.

When Mr. Pei was received by

Mitterrand, one of the first things the French President told him was, "What happened to Bernini will not happen to you."

No one disagreed with the President about the need to renovate the museum. Nothing in the palace had changed since 1884 — not the plumbing, not the electrical system, and, worst of all, not the endless walks up and down stairs to find the Mona Lisa. The problems will be corrected by the museum renovation, scheduled for completion by the year 2000.

The pyramid project still provoked outrage. Traditionalists complained about the choice of an American architect. They worried that the design would spoil the palace's

panorama, while obstructing the spectacular view which runs through the Tuilleries Gardens up along the Champs Elysees to the Arc de Triomphe.

Le Figaro called Pei's plan "a monster." Le Monde said the President was treating the Louvre like Disneyland. Both newspapers were flooded with letters of support and, in 1984, the Louvre's director resigned in protest.

When Conservative Jacques Chirac became prime minister in 1986, the project looked doomed. Outraged by the cost — \$800 million — Mr. Chirac vowed during his campaign to cut its budget. Once in office, he changed his mind.

"He took a close look at the pyramid and was seduced," recalls Lydie Gerbaud, a Chirac aide. "It was that simple."

Well, not quite so simple. Even after the prime minister gave his approval, his finance minister, Edouard Balladur, balked. Mr. Balladur wasn't upset about the high cost. The Finance Ministry's lavish headquarters are located in one of the palace wings, and Balladur refused to move to new offices, despite the construction.

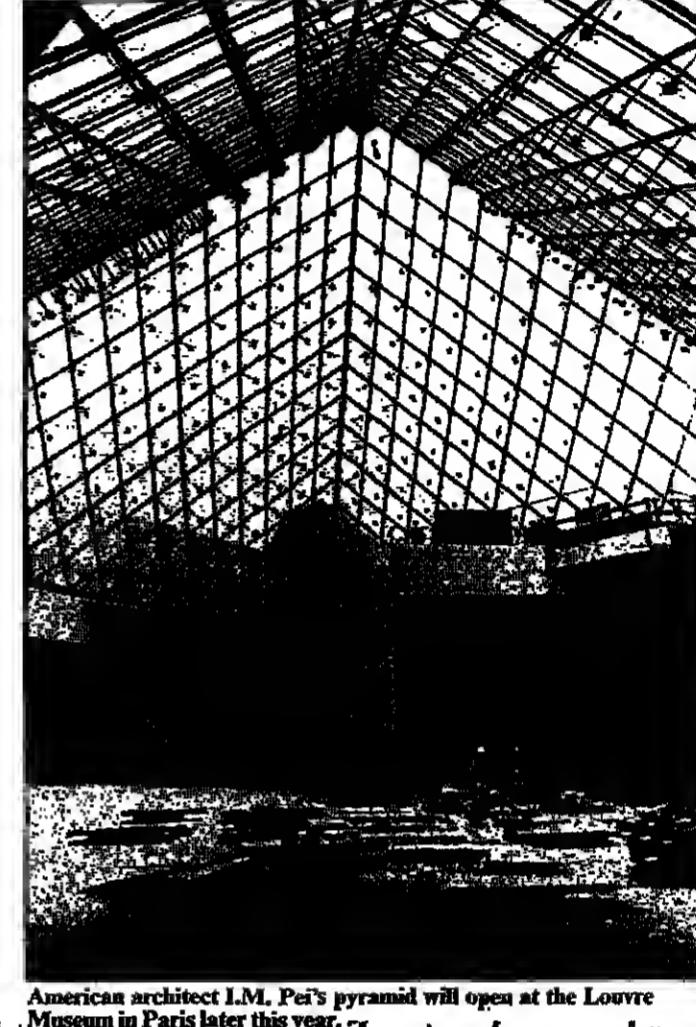
Culture Minister Francois Leotard tried to force him to leave. Prime Minister Chirac nudged him. But Balladur wouldn't budge.

This "battle of the Louvre" is about to end. In May, French voters re-elected Mitterrand, forcing Chirac and Balladur to resign. Public opinion polls show that 80 per cent of the French now approve of the controversial pyramid, and the new Socialist finance minister, has pledged to move out by the end of the year.

Churchill once said a house offers a picture of the mind of its inhabitant," reflects Andre Gauron, a Finance Ministry official.

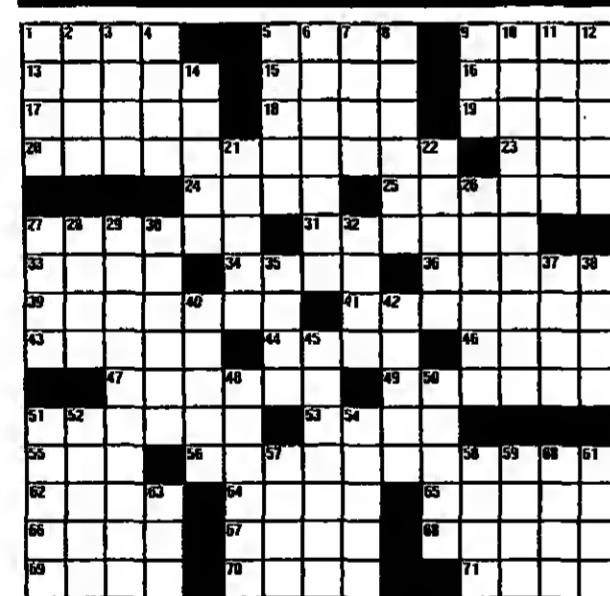
"This is no democratic building. This is the Old Empire. We need a more modern, functional office, not all this golden finery."

1988, The Christian Science Monitor News Service.



American architect I.M. Pei's pyramid will open at the Louvre Museum in Paris later this year.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
 1 Apartment, along the Thames
 5 Strip off
 9 Winnie's opposite
 13 Mechanical worker
 15 Pier
 16 Ian's cousin, in Cardiff
 17 Mountain spine
 18 Sung
 19 Bond
 20 Prasants with rastream
 23 Street, in Paris
 24 Fr. holy woman
 25 Demonstrated
 27 Worshipped
 31 Complete
 33 — it up
 34 Ye — Shoppe
 36 Poker play
 39 Record in advance
 41 Gats even
 43 Cremona instr.
 44 Capri, for one
 46 River access, in India
 47 Death Valley adjective
 49 — fly
 51 Wool worker
 53 Track event
 55 Words on a carte
 56 Furtive
 62 Estrangement
 64 Relating to a period
 65 Governor Cuomo
 66 "— each life..."
 67 Dotted, in heraldry
 68 Chic
 69 Super
 70 Hardy heroine
 71 Cole residents

DOWN
 1 Bonn wife
 2 Desolata
 3 Sleeping
 4 Lug
 5 Imitation jewelry
 6 Completely covaried
 7 State, in Paris
 8 Weakest excuse
 9 Rep. antagonist
 10 Dieter's concern
 11 Worth
 12 Finished
 14 Devoid of superlity
 21 Sharpenar
 22 Haavy British draft horse
 26 Navel article
 27 Home of the Jungfrau
 28 Dish the — (gossip)
 29 Bank problems

30 Slow down
 32 Actress Patricia
 35 Oahu
 37 Group of seven
 38 Italian noble family
 40 Nice farewell
 42 Fodder plant
 45 Pours out, as a crowd
 48 Hemingway
 50 Mine areas
 51 Antilles Indian
 52 True
 53 City on the Rhone
 57 Endure: Scot.
 58 "What's in a —?"
 59 Skatch
 60 Initail
 61 Dashas' companions
 63 Toddler

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ A Q 10 4
 ♦ 2
 ♦ Q 9 8 7 6 5
 ♦ A 4

WEST

♦ A 8 5 3
 ♦ K J 7 6
 ♦ 2
 ♦ Q 10 4 3

♦ J 10 8 6 3 ♦ Q 9 7 5 2

SOUTH

♦ K J 9 2
 ♦ A 9 8 5 4 3
 ♦ A K
 ♦ K

The bidding:

South: West: North: East:
 1 ♠ Pass
 2 ♠ Pass
 3 ♠ Pass
 4 NT Pass
 5 NT Pass
 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Even double dummy, it is not easy to spot the winning line to the grand slam after a club lead. We are told that it was actually found at the table. Although we accept this statement at face value, the declarer who made this hand so brilliantly remained anonymous.

After South's reverse, North cue-bid his club ace at the three-level as a temporizing measure. Once South

could look for a grand slam with five no trump, despite the fact that he had poor trumps, North realized that South had to have enough controls to make the grand slam a viable contract.

Declarer won the opening club lead in hand, cashed the king of diamonds, then crossed to dummy by leading a low trump to the ten. Next came the ace of clubs, on which declarer discarded the ace of diamonds!

The rest was relatively easy. Declarer ruffed a diamond high, cashed the ace of hearts and returned to the table with a heart ruff. Another diamond ruffed high set up the suit, and declarer was able to overtake his last trump on the board to draw trumps and claim his contract after cashing the queen of diamonds.

Note the beauty and complete safety of South's line. If diamonds were 3-2 and trumps 4-1, declarer would still get home. The distribution of the diamonds would become known after one ruff, and declarer would still have enough high trumps to draw trumps ending on the table, then run diamonds. As the cards lie, all he had to do to land his contract was to execute a dummy reversal combined with a jettison play, and declarer is too modest to claim his work of art!

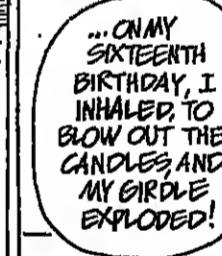
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



"Keep this in your room. We don't have a fire escape."

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You should beware of all kinds of exaggeration. You will find it a little hard to concentrate but you must make the effort. Avoid doing anything you are not quite sure about. Be reliable.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

The prospects are good but you must keep your mind on what you are doing. You should not dwell too much on the past: you have the future to look forward to. You should avoid jumping to conclusions. Be constructive.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will feel in top form but must not dissipate your energies. You have an interesting and rewarding day ahead of you. You should make sure you do not lose sight of your objectives. Try to keep things in their proper proportion. Be fair.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You should do all you can to avoid causing confusion. Do not place too much reliance on others, more in yourself. You should take a little more care about the way you spend money. Be less intolerant.

Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should try to avoid doing anything that would give rise to jealousy. You will not be in the best of moods but if you try you will be able to restrain your temper. You should listen carefully to what others are saying. Be dependable.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You will be able to make the best use of your time and you will also be able to encourage others. You should make sure you do not lose sight of your objectives. Try to keep things in their proper proportion. Be considerate.

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By Sean Ogunseitan

KOKO, Nigeria: The dangerous drums are being removed. But the poisons remain in the ground, a threat to the lives of the people of Koko — and to water, forests and vegetation for many miles around.

The story began last September when Sunday Nana, 57, a farmer and mechanic in the sleepy coastal port of Koko in south-west Nigeria, was offered US\$120 a month to store a few hundred drums of waste in his backyard. He accepted.

Some broken drums were emitting a "choking odour" and leaking chemicals destroyed leather and rubber gloves worn by some of the 300 or so US\$52-a-day dockworkers who offloaded them. But Nana, and his neighbours and the dockers were not too concerned. Koko usually sees only one ship every couple of months, and here were four ships — two Italian, one German and one Danish — offering work.

Boom

For the residents of Koko, a former slave traders' port, the arrival of the foreign industrial waste seemed to be a boom.

But after two Nigerian journalists discovered the dump this June, its hidden secret was revealed: it was a poisonous brew of radioactivity and toxic chemicals.

The Nigerian government invited the United States Environment Protection Agency and the United Kingdom and Japanese atomic energy agencies to check the dump.

The first two warned that several chemicals on the site were among the 10 most dangerous in the world. Last month, the Japanese Atomic Energy Agency reported that it

Illegal dumping of industrial waste brings host of problems to Nigeria

The drums of foreign toxic and radioactive waste illegally dumped by Italian and other ships in a quiet Nigerian port are leaving. But the consequences will be much longer-lasting.

had found three drums of radioactive active waste, and recommended that the topsoil be scraped clean and stored until a safe means of disposing it could be found.

The "cargo of death from Italy" as the local press describe it — the materials had been embarked in Livorno, near Pisa — included drums and barrels containing highly poisonous polychlorophenylphenyls (PCBs), many caustic organic solvents, fluoro-silicates, cyanates, toxic resins like methyl melamine, dioxin and other poisonous chloro-compounds, and a large volume of wastes of paints and pigment manufacture.

After lengthy and heated negotiations between the Nigerian and Italian governments — Nigeria held an Italian ship as "hostage" — the leaky drums, barrels, transport containers and bags of chemicals from the United States and ten European countries are being taken back to Italy.

Mess

But much of the mess in Koko will remain — on the ground, in the water supply, and in already-emptied drums.

Almost immediately after the discovery of the dump the government told people in the town to stop farming on the

lands to prevent the intake of unsafe amounts of chemicals.

However, harvesting of the cassava grown right on the dump site began this month (August). The cassava tuber will be processed into the various carbohydrate-rich foods which are the local staples.

For the next two months at least, the heavy tropical rains now washing the poisons into the soil will continue to drench the underground waters at Koko and its environs in hazardous substances.

Still more, just beyond the dump site is a thick forest that extends to the banks of the Benin River — and in the forest is a pond which is a rich source of fish. Even more, it is connected to the river which straddles some 100,000 hectares of farmland, providing irrigation water for 30,000 farmers.

Supported

Runoff water from the slope where the dump is situated can be seen flowing towards this forest and the pond.

Sunday Nana was quick to deny blame for allowing his premises to be used for the storage of the poisonous cargo.

He asked: "Where is the law which says I cannot rent out my land?"

The people of Koko supported him. They told the government they should not have to suffer because of the waste.

Nana allowed on his premises since nobody in the town could have queried what government health officials allowed into the country.

Besides, the people of Koko had been told by the importer that the chemicals were raw materials for a factory being built in the town of Asaba, 180 kilometres away.

It took top government officials, including a state minister, and days of dialogue before Sunday Nana agreed, at the end of June, to vacate his polluted land.

Even then Nana agreed to be resettled elsewhere in Koko not because he believed officials' claims that his land had been irretrievably polluted, but because they told him the safety of his house could not be guaranteed against fire and other risks involved in removing the wastes.

Labelled

While the truth about the toxic dump was unfolding, Sunday Nana and his family were using some of the drums to collect rainwater which they use for bathing — even though brownish, sticky mixtures of the poisonous resin wastes remain on the drums. Cousins of the Nanas have been using drums for brewing their local gin.

An official inquiry has found that the wastes were brought to Nigeria in five shipments between 27 August 1987 and 19 May this year. Nigerian authorities had given approval for a

Nigerian-registered firm to bring wastes from Italy into the country for "reprocessing."

However, some of the drums were falsely labelled so that they would not be recognised as toxic wastes. With the help, too, of document forgeries and gifts to Nigerian health inspectors and customs men, 3,884 tonnes of poisonous chemicals wastes were brought into the country.

It could have been even worse: it emerged that the shipper had planned to land to total of 54,000 tonnes before being caught out.

An Italian businessman, Gianfranco Raffaelli, long resident in Nigeria, has been named as masterminding the shipments. He is now reported to have fled the country.

Meanwhile, three of the dock workers newly employed to repack the poisoned cargo were treated for vomiting blood six days after coming into contact with it. Doctors say they probably ate food without realising that the chemicals they were repacking had got onto their hands while they exchanged gloves, overalls and facemasks.

As it is, these safety devices are in short supply. One worker suffered partial paralysis after accidentally inhaling some of the poisonous fumes through an improperly closed breathing mask.

At least six cases of serious chemical burns have been reported by the doctors who are checking the health of the workers repacking the waste. And doctors at Koko have reported seven miscarriages within two weeks, well above



Sunday Nana, owner of the land at Koko in south-west Nigeria where the toxic waste was dumped walks in to inspect the leaking drums.

the national average.

According to one report to the Nigerian government, there is a high risk of fire. Since the contents of many of the drums are unknown, simply to pack the drums together — many of them broken — is to risk setting off chemical reactions which may even be explosive.

Bangs

Already, small bangs have been heard from the dump, particularly in the hot Nigerian afternoons.

With the duty of removing the drums, dock workers carting the cargo through the one kilometre stretch to the port en route to Italy, have demanded full protective clothing, including oxygen masks.

They have also requested insurance cover and free

medical screening for those who were "heartlessly" used without any protective clothing and without warnings during the off-loading of the waste.

The Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS) last weekend ratified a law which makes the dumping of any type of industrial wastes in any country within the sub-continent a criminal offence.

Although the ECOWAS stand is stronger than that taken by the Organisation of African Unity earlier this year, it remains to be seen how the law will be enforced in the sub-region where at least three governments have been implicated in agreements with several European and American waste-dumpers.

In fact, the Nigerian govern-

ment's own vigorous campaigning against the dumping of industrial wastes in Africa was just reaching a crescendo when the Koko dump affair blew open. The government had launched the campaign after media exposé of a secret nuclear waste-dumping agreement signed in April between France and the Republic of Benin, Nigeria's western neighbour.

By June 5, when the Guardian newspaper in Lagos reported finding the Koko toxic waste dump, a thoroughly disappointed government could only blame officials and some unscrupulous citizens who "connived with foreigners to destroy their land."

The government is hinting that it is considering introducing the death penalty for such dumping. Panos Features.

By Jay Srinivas

Unorthodox methods prove successful

Combating India's drought with ancient technology

Using a 6th century manuscript, an Indian geologist is discovering underground water. Experts are cool about his methods but he insists that evidence of water is provided by trees and termites. Prasad's unusual methods and success are creating ripples in the scientific community.

Jamnagar, another team was trying to locate well sites using pictures from remote sensing satellites. India's remote sensing satellite cost US\$50m. Yet, according to Prasad, the success rate of remote sensing was about 30 per cent, "which is as good as water divining by quacks."

Ant hills are the best indicators of groundwater, says Prasad. Termites go down deep to reach the water table in order to bring water to the ground to maintain the humidity in the mounds required for their survival.

The growth of certain trees whose root system can penetrate the soil to reach the water table, no matter how deep it is, another unusual indicator, he says.

While seeking groundwater indicators, Prasad also looks for trees with knots in their trunks or branches, or two species of trees symbiotically united into one. His other clues are abnormal physiological features like palm trees with two crowns instead of one, absence of thorns in a normally thorn-bearing tree, and trees with a glossy appearance and blossoming flowers.

Prasad's approach has not,

however, received the full-hearted support of the central government's groundwater board. Says G. Ghosh, project director of the water technology missions: "I am not fully convinced about Prasad's technique."

Prasad replies by saying that government geologists have been brainwashed for years by Western technologies like resistivity measurements originally developed to detect minerals but not water; he also refers to the vested interest in perpetuating current practice because of the huge sums involved.

According to Prasad, Varahamihira's technique is applicable to many hard-rock, drought-prone regions of the world including the southwest United States, Brazil, Africa, South and West Asia and Western Australia.

But again, experts disagree, this time those of the World Bank. In a letter to Prasad, a Bank spokesman said the presence of a tree species that grows deep roots may indicate that the tree is tapping an aquifer for its own needs, "but not that there is enough water for high-yielding tubewells."

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But again, experts disagree,

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Boeing order from Sweden gives company a record '88

SEATTLE, Aug 28. (Reuters): Boeing announced yesterday that the number of jet aircraft orders received by the company this year has reached a record 466 following an order from Sweden worth more than \$175 million.

The order, for six 737-500s from Sweden's domestic airline Linjeflyg, lifted the dollar value of orders during 1988 to \$20.7 billion, Boeing executives told a news conference.

Boeing said the Linjeflyg deal included an option on another six aircraft. It said deliveries of the aircraft are scheduled to begin in 1991.

Largest

The previous annual record for Boeing, the world's largest builder of airliners, was in 1978 when it received orders of 461 planes for the entire year.

The company has benefited this year from a weak dollar and the need of many airlines to replace ageing planes.

Of the 466 aircraft ordered so far this year, 272 are model 737s, 41 are 747s, 121 are 757s and 32 are 767s.

Last week Boeing received an order for two 747-400s worth \$250 million from British Airways.

UK exports to Iraq soar

LONDON, Aug 28. (OPECNA): British exports to OPEC member Iraq increased by 20 per cent to \$195.50 million during the first quarter of this year.

The announcement came on the confirmation that the British Minister of Trade and Industry Tony Newton will lead his country's delegation to the joint Anglo-Iraq joint commission to be held in Baghdad next November.

British officials said the visit would be part of renewed efforts to help UK firms benefit from trade opportunities in Iraq after a ceasefire between Iraq and Iran went into effect on August 20.

The visit will coincide with the 25th annual Baghdad international fair, in which about 45 British firms will take part, nearly twice the number of 1987.

Prospects

The delegation will also discuss prospects for British firms' contribution to the country's post-war reconstruction, especially in the oil sector.

The talks will also cover the possibility of new guaranteed lines of British credits to Iraq, the officials said.

British exports to Iraq slumped from about \$755 million in 1986 to about 454 million in 1987, with imports dropping from \$433.50 million to \$38.70 over the same period.

Meanwhile, in the wake of the Iran-Iraq ceasefire, the general secretary of the Arab Gulf Chambers of Commerce Union has received detailed information on construction projects and investment opportunities in Iraq's industrial and agricultural sectors.

Projects

Abdullah Al Mula, the union's secretary-general, said he hopes local contractors can join the Iraqi private sector in completing the projects.

The secretary contacted the Iraqi Chambers of Commerce Union to get investors and Gulf businessmen to provide the data.

Meanwhile, Al Mula said he hopes that Arab and Gulf contractors will be able to participate in economic and developmental projects which had been hurt by the Iran-Iraq war.

Plan to boost economic ties

BEIJING, Aug 28. (KUNA): China and Japan signed an agreement here today to encourage and protect their investments in each other's country, the Chinese news agency (Xinhua) reported.

The agreement is aimed at further enhancing Sino-Japanese economic co-operation and technical exchanges through giving good treatment and protection to investors, their business and investment properties.

To date, China has signed such agreements with 21 countries including the Federal Republic of Germany, Britain and France.

Chinese Premier Li Peng and Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita attended the signing ceremony.

Zheng Tuobin, Chinese Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, and Toshiro Nakajima, Japanese Ambassador to China, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

Rate hikes cause a wave of big losses in stock markets

Central banks try to keep lid on dollar

LONDON, Aug 28. (Reuters): The dollar starts this week sharply lower after last week's massive central bank intervention to cap its rise and dealers were split on whether America's currency had the strength to stage a new rally.

A round of interest rate hikes by six European nations on Thursday and a concerted wave of dollar sales by central banks during the week left a battered dollar at 1.8585 West German marks at Friday's close, six pence down on Monday's finish.

Strong comments from West German Bundesbank president Karl Otto Poehl, criticising the dollar's recent surge, further undermined the US currency, which hit a 19-month high of 1.92 marks earlier in the month.

Upturn

"The dollar's upturn has been thwarted for the time being," said Frank Pusateri of Bank of Boston in New York.

The determination of the powerful Bundesbank to weaken the dollar has disconcerted financial markets, haunted by rising interest rates and a fear of inflation, dealers said at the weekend.

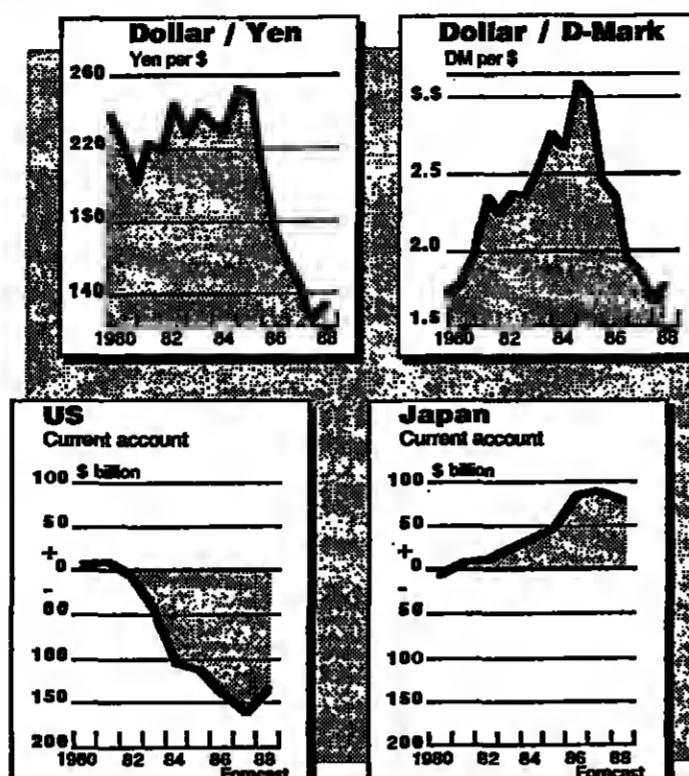
Most forecast a nervous start to trading on Monday and were reluctant to predict a trend.

Depreciation

"The Bundesbank was incredibly forceful (last week)," said James O'Neill, an economist at Swiss Bank Corp in London where markets will be closed on Monday for a national holiday.

Poehl said the central bank would do all it could to stop further mark depreciation, which analysts said appeared an overt threat of heavy intervention and/or higher interest rates.

A key factor in the dollar's future will be how far the US



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Investors are jittery lest interest rates now go up again in

the United States, and in Japan, leading to a competitive round of increases that would crimp global economic expansion.

The West Germans, in raising their discount rate from three to 3.5 per cent last week, wanted to make Deutsche mark assets more attractive and sap the dollar's strength.

Higher

Money has been attracted to it this summer as US interest rates moved higher to deal with inflation in America. But a strong dollar puts up Europe's import bills.

The consensus amongst currency watchers was for the dollar to fall in the short-run to between 1.80 and 1.85 marks before recovering to about 1.87 to 1.92 over the medium-term.

Presenting a bullish view of the dollar, Juerg Dommermuth, a dealer at Vereins — Und Westbank in Hamburg, said: "we are near the lower limit of the dollar's range."

Bob Bauer, senior dealer at Commerzbank AG, agreed: "we could easily see the dollar back up at 1.92 marks again."

Doubtful

Other analysts were more doubtful about the dollar's ability to rebound as long as the United States still relied heavily on overseas funding for its high external deficits.

Guenther Teich, treasurer of Bank of Boston, said the dollar could fall to 1.80 marks next

week and be at 1.70 by the end of the year. Chris Zermann, currency analyst at Swiss Bank Corp in Frankfurt saw 1.73 marks by the end of the year.

Thursday's rate hikes caused a wave of big losses in stock markets where investors were alarmed by the global interest-rate rise. By Friday, however, most markets were keeping cool.

Wall Street shrugged off worries of further interest-rate hikes abroad. The Dow Jones industrial average closed ahead seven points on Friday at 2,017.

In Saturday business on Tokyo's Stock Exchange share prices closed higher because of bargain-hunting which focused on recently-neglected shares.

Uptrend

Dealers said the uptrend reflected Friday's Wall Street recovery. The Nikkei index rose 13.50 points, or 0.4 per cent, to 27,675.91 after tumbling 305.03 points on Friday.

A recent drop in oil prices has dampened inflation worries. But oil futures edged higher in the United States on Friday. The October contract on the New York Mercantile Exchange rose three cents to \$15.34 a barrel.

New York gold futures fell although prices ended above the day's low after a late buying flurry. The October delivery gold contract finished down 80 cents an ounce at \$435.60 after hitting an early low of \$434.60.

World Business Summary

Oil demand in US and Japan rises sharply

WASHINGTON, Aug 28. (OPECNA): Oil demand in the United States as measured by the amount of products supplied rose by 2.3 per cent to 17 million BPD in the four weeks ending Aug 12, according to the energy information administration here. Administration statistics carried by Reuters news agency showed that US demand for distillates over the month rose by 6.6 per cent to 2.78 million BPD compared with the same period in 1987. However, gasoline demand was down 3.6 per cent to 7.16 million BPD while demand for residual fuel stood at 1.21 million BPD, a fall of 1.7 per cent over last year's figures. US crude oil production over the period averaged an estimated 8.15 million BPD, down 0.9 per cent over last year, while crude imports fell by 7.9 per cent to 4.94 million BPD. Refinery crude runs over the four weeks totalled 13.71 million BPD, an increase of 2.4 per cent over last year. The agency said that demand for petroleum products in the US for this year was up 1.7 per cent to an average of 16.58 million BPD, compared with 1987, including a jump of 3.5 per cent for distillates. US crude oil production for the year so far showed a drop of 1.4 per cent to 8.37 million BPD, while oil imports stood at 4.90 million BPD, an increase of 1.5 per cent over the same period in 1987. Meanwhile, Japan's crude oil imports surged by 39.6 per cent to 138.31 million BPD in July, compared with the same month last year, the highest level recorded since August 1984. The Japanese Ministry of Trade and Industry (MITI) said that the country's largest crude supplier for the tenth consecutive month was the United Arab Emirates with 25.15 million BPD followed by Saudi Arabia (23.23 million) and Indonesia (19.40 million).

35 countries take part in Taiwan's trade fair

TAIPEI, Aug 28. (UPI): Taiwan opened its first import fair today with exhibitors from 35 countries attending the nine-day event. Some 600 foreign visitors from five continents will occupy 350 booths at the Taipei import fair, on the fairgrounds at the CETRA (China External Trade Development Council) exhibition hall in Taipei. Almost 300 industrial and business associations, government and private manufacturers are represented. CETRA expects some 200,000 local visitors to attend the show. Dr P. K. Chiang, CETRA secretary-general on Friday said the goals of the import fair are to provide other nations with an opportunity to tap into the liberalising Taiwan market, to increase economic ties with other countries, and to demonstrate the Republic of China's willingness to participate in global affairs. Premier Yo Kuo-Hwa presided over the opening ceremony on Friday. Taiwan ranks 13th in world trade. Its foreign exchange reserves totaling over \$75 billion, are second only to Japan. Economic ties have played an increasingly important role in Taiwan, which maintains formal diplomatic ties with only 13 nations. Earlier this year, the cabinet approved a \$1 billion fund to finance economic development in "friendly" developing countries. Chiang said he expects 50 developing countries to participate in the second import trade fair sponsored by CETRA in 1990.

Yugoslavia keen to boost trade ties with Iraq

BELGRADE, Aug 28. (KUNA): The joint Iraqi-Yugoslav Committee for Economic Co-operation started deliberations yesterday on developing trade, industrial co-operation and funding opportunities for Yugoslav companies to take part in post-war reconstruction in Iraq. The Iraqi side was chaired by Deputy Housing Minister Muhammad Diab Al Ahmed, while the Yugoslav side was headed by Economic Undersecretary Mihailo Sharas. At the beginning of the meeting, the two sides asserted that the establishment of peace in Iraq and the rest of the region paves the way for stronger economic ties between Baghdad and Belgrade. The Yugoslav official expressed his country's desire to expand bilateral co-operation and reach the same level of investment which was reported prior to the Iraq-Iran war. He said: Yugoslavia is keen to develop economic ties with Iraq, he said. His country wants to import five million tons of Iraqi crude oil yearly, the same amount Yugoslavia imported prior to the war, he said.

Yugoslav construction companies did not leave Iraq even during dangerous battles of the Iraq-Iran war, the Yugoslav official said. Yugoslav technicians helped the Iraqis with several reconstruction projects during the war, he added.

Sharas emphasised that his country does not want priority for Yugoslav firms operating in Iraq. The Iraqi official expressed his country's appreciation for Yugoslavia's services, and said Iraq is looking forward to strengthening co-operation and friendship with Yugoslavia. Discussing reconstruction and development in Iraq, Diab said that Iraq intends to give Yugoslav companies the chance to join reconstruction efforts.

During the joint economic meeting, the officials formed two small work committees to review spheres of co-operation. Iraqi Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan, will arrive here Sept 1 to lead his country's side in the final session, while his Yugoslav counterpart will lead his country's side. An economic agreement is expected to be signed between Iraq and Yugoslavia.

Falling oil income to raise UAE budget deficit

ABU DHABI, Aug 28. (Reuters): Falling oil revenue will push the UAE 1988 budget deficit above last year's 2.76 billion dirhams (\$745 million), the Finance and Industry Ministry has said. Spending under the budget, to be released before October, will total about the same as last year's 14.4 billion dirhams (\$3.9 billion), Ministry Undersecretary Naser Al Nowais said in the latest Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce magazine. "The increase in the deficit is due to the decline in oil prices and production and the UAE's adherence to OPEC output agreements," he told the magazine. He gave no budget figures. World oil prices this year have fallen several dollars below last year, when they boomed around the official OPEC benchmark of \$18 a barrel. Industry sources estimate that UAE output in July was the highest this year at 1.4 million barrels per day (BPD), against an OPEC quota of 948,000 BPD. The UAE earned 29 billion dirhams (\$7.9 billion) in 1987 from oil exports, its major source of revenue, which for much of the year exceeded 1.5 million BPD.

Economic co-operation with Iran possible, says Hadisi

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Aug 28. (AP): Iraqi Finance Minister Hikmet Al Omar Al Hadisi said on Wednesday that future economic co-operation is possible with Iran. "We would like to establish co-operation with all neighbouring countries, providing there is goodwill," Al Hadisi told reporters. "If we see goodwill from Iranians, we are ready to co-operate economically and we are ready to show twice as much goodwill as they will show," said Al Hadisi, who was in Turkey to attend the opening of an industrial fair at the Aegean port city of Izmir. Iranian Oil Ankara for talks on a proposed pipeline, told reporters that the sides reach a peace agreement, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart Tareq Aziz meet in Geneva on Thursday for the first direct discussions between top officials of the two countries since the start of the Gulf war eight years ago.

Bright prospects for employment

UK manufacturing export growth falling: study

LONDON, Aug 28: British manufacturing export growth is falling "very significantly" in most regions as goods pour into a home market which is still expanding because of the continuing consumer boom, according to a London daily.

The hawks on exports has come hardest in strong exporting regions like London, the Thames Valley and the Northwest, with the growth trend showing signs of turning to a decline, according to the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

But the association's latest quarterly survey to June showed that among the 3,000 companies in 13 regions surveyed confidence about turnover growth and profitability was still high

with more planning fresh investment.

Peter Burman, the association's chairman, said: "The overall situation is hy no means gloomy. But too much is hanging on high consumer demand fuelled by easy credit."

Exports

Burman called for greater control on consumer credit and added: "To bring things back into balance, and to create space for exports, we must not rely solely on high interest rates. Consumer credit must be reined in using more precise instruments than the blunderbuss of interest rates which hits as many wrong targets as right ones."

The association is still formulating a policy on how the

consumer boom should be curbed. One option might be for credit card charges to be increased for those taking up extended credit, suggested Burman. Among London manufacturing exporters nearly a third on balance were reporting increases in export orders earlier this year but in the association's second quarter survey the balance slipped to minus 10 per cent.

Negative

Other negative balances were on Merseyside (minus 2 per cent against the previous quarter's plus 25 per cent), Buckinghamshire and Berkshire (minus 9 per cent against plus 20 per cent) and Greater Manchester (a switch from an earlier plus 9 per cent down to minus 6 per cent).

Employment prospects looked good in both manufacturing and the services sectors.

American corporate profits up

WASHINGTON, Aug 28. (AP): US corporations' after-tax profits shot up 11.5 per cent from April through June, the biggest advance in five years, the government reported yesterday.

The Commerce Department said that after-tax profits rose to an annual rate of \$16.6 billion in the second quarter.

The increase, which followed a 2.5 per cent rise in the first quarter, was the highest gain since a 14.5 per cent rise in the second quarter of 1983.

The profit advance was led by increases for transportation companies, public utilities and manufacturers of durable goods, items expected to last three or more years, the report said.

Manufacturers of non-durable goods had weaker profits in the second quarter except for petroleum companies, which enjoyed an increase.

Advance

Allen Sinai, chief economist of the Boston Co., attributed the overall profits advance to the better-than-expected economic growth this year.

"Corporate profits have been the sensation of the year, reflecting a strong economy, rising product prices and strong production growth in manufacturing," he said.

Agreement could lift disputes out of political arena

US, Japan begin to explore free trade pact

TOKYO, Aug 28, (Reuters): The United States and Japan have begun to explore the possibility of a free-trade pact that would guide their economic relations into the next century.

While an agreement, if any, is still years away, officials from both sides said the effort to map out the future could prove useful in avoiding the pitfalls of the past.

Investigation

"We ought to... get away from this nickel and diming way of conducting trade negotiations on one issue or a group of issues," US Ambassador to Japan Mike Mansfield said.

That approach has only spawned resentment on both sides and

has thus far done little to reduce the yawning trade gap between the two countries, analysts said.

The US International Trade Commission, acting at the behest of the Senate Finance Committee headed by Democratic vice-presidential hopeful Lloyd Bentsen, recently launched a formal investigation into the issue.

Positive

In Japan, at least four government ministries have begun to look into the question of a pact that would abolish trade barriers between the two nations. The foreign ministry is hopeful of leading a government-wide study later this year.

The ministry launched its own investigation after US Senate majority leader Robert Byrd

raised the issue with Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in January.

An interim report completed this summer adopted a positive attitude toward the idea of a free trade pact officials said.

"Friction-driven relations aren't very healthy," a foreign ministry official said. "It may be the right time for a more constructive, more positive relationship built from a longer-range perspective."

Agreement

A free trade pact could lift disputes out of the political arena and establish a formal mechanism to deal with them.

But that does not mean Japan is without some misgivings about entering into a free trade pact

with the United States.

For one thing, officials here point to the big differences in culture and philosophy between the two nations.

For another, some Japanese officials cannot understand what Washington hopes to gain from a free trade agreement.

"Why do they want to push this idea?" asked Ichiro Shirakawa, a director at the Economic Planning Agency (EPA). "If most of the trade barriers were abolished between Japan and the United States, Japan would benefit more."

He ticked off a list of products where Japan is limiting exports to America — from machine tools to automobiles.

But Washington may have

something to gain in the area of agriculture and financial services. "That may be the meat in the juice for the United States," said one Japanese official.

Pact

Some officials here also suspect Washington wants to use the threat of a bilateral pact to win concessions from Europe, from Asia's newly industrialising economies, and from other nations participating in the multilateral Uruguay trade talks.

Tokyo would be happy if talk of a pact with Washington deterred the European Economic Community (EEC) from becoming more protectionist after it becomes fully integrated in 1992.

Australian budget forecast makes economists nervous

Economy poised for another rosy year

SYDNEY, Aug 28, (Reuters): Paul Keating's latest budget is any guide, Australia's economy is headed for another rosy year, according to reports.

But while the treasurer said the economy will grow 3.5 percent in the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1989 — about the same as the previous year — some observers said his budget relies on optimistic projections that could signal an overheating economy.

He reiterated his forecast for inflation to fall to 4.5 percent in the next 12 months and said it could slip to 3-4 percent in 1990. Inflation ended the last fiscal year at 7.1 percent.

Keating capped his budget with news that a projected record budget surplus for the current year of A\$5.47 billion (US\$4.47 billion) will enable Australia to chip away at its huge foreign debt.

The budget was in surplus by A\$2.04 billion in the year just ended, compared with a deficit of

A\$2.72 billion the prior year. "Unquestionably, a dramatically better state of affairs now exists than when I warned in 1986 of the threat of Australia degenerating to the status of a banana republic," he said.

The projected budget surplus was in line with expectations, and reaction was muted. The Australian dollar hardly moved before the budget news, though it later strengthened in London. Economists said the budget will be bullish for the currency in the longer term.

Analysts said the budget likely will buoy Australian bonds at home and abroad. And while Australian stocks slipped ahead of the evening statement, analysts said the budget will benefit equities.

But some economists said Keating may be overly optimistic. Andre Morony, chief economist at Bankers Trust Australia Ltd., said the country "is running a big risk by allowing the economy to grow so strongly." Domestic

was in the one just ended, said Warren Bird, chief economist of Lloyds Bank NZA Ltd. Bird and others said they worry that the latest budget strategy depends too much on strong commodity prices for Australian exports such as wool, beef and metals, which buoyed the economy last year.

Prices

Figures for last year show that while export prices have been growing faster than prices of imports, the reverse has been true in volume terms. That trend is "flashing yellow," said Andrew Mohl, of Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. The budget forecasts that the trend will continue, but if commodities soften the budget could unravel, economists said.

The budget forecast makes several economists nervous. Andre Morony, chief economist at Bankers Trust Australia Ltd., said the country "is running a big risk by allowing the economy to grow so strongly." Domestic

demand, as forecast in the budget, could push inflation above Keating's target of 4.5 per cent.

Strong domestic demand also could cause an import surge, widening the current-account deficit, which Keating forecast will shrink to A\$9.5 billion, or 3 per cent of gross domestic product, from A\$11.9 billion, or 4.1 per cent of GDP, in the last fiscal year. (The current account measures the net balance in trade of goods and services and certain fund transfers. GDP is the output of goods and services, minus foreign income.) Widening of the current-account deficit would worsen Australia's foreign debt.

Government and private borrowers owe US\$93 billion to creditors abroad. The government repaid A\$1.6 billion of foreign debt last year and plans to repay another A\$3 billion this fiscal year. But with the current-account deficit projected at A\$9.5 billion, foreign debt is likely to exceed US\$100 billion this year.

Plan to open stock exchange

BAHRAIN, Aug 28, (Reuters): Oman's first stock exchange will open by end of January, Commerce and Industry Minister Salem Bin Abdullah Al Ghazali said yesterday.

He told the Oman News Agency that it should stimulate trade and economic development in the sultanate.

Economic talks

DAMASCUS, Aug 28, (Reuters): Syrian Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mohammed Imad held talks today with Turkish Minister of State Yusuf Ozal on bilateral relations.

The official Syrian News Agency SANA quoted Ozal as saying that industrial and economic relations between the two countries had grown over the past two years.

Jordan, Iraq to resolve trade crisis

Jordan and Iraq have reached initial agreement on resolving a trade crisis involving letters of credit worth almost \$100 million, Jordanian Trade Minister secretary-general Mohammad Al Saqqaf said yesterday.

He was speaking after three days of talks with Iraqi Foreign Trade Ministry undersecretary Qahis Abdulfatah on an excess of letters of credit opened by Baghdad for Jordanian exporters.

Controls

"We have reached an agreement in principle on solving this problem... the Iraqis have promised us to honour all credits to Jordanian industrialists by the end of next month," Saqqaf told Reuters.

The two countries have now held three sessions of talks since the problem emerged about four months ago. Around 160 Jor-

danian companies were involved.

Under a protocol agreed at easing trade with cash-strapped Iraq, Jordan's Central Bank agreed in 1983 to reimburse local exporters for goods sent to Baghdad, which paid for them partly in crude oil.

But officials said letters of credit, drawn on Iraq's state-owned Rafidain Bank, were opened for goods worth \$400 to \$500 million in the first quarter of 1988, far above the year's quota of \$185 million.

Controls

The flood began after Baghdad relaxed controls on private sector imports in December, they said.

The excess was put at \$98 million after the Trade Ministry, Central Bank and Chamber of Industry sifted through the letters and found that many of the exporters did not meet official

financial standards.

Saqqaf said Jordan and Iraq also agreed on how to implement their 1988 trade protocol, which envisages bilateral trade worth \$900 million equally between the two countries.

They hoped to raise the volume of trade next year through further co-operation between the Jordanian and Iraqi private sectors, he said.

Iraq is a key market for the recession-hit economy of Jordan, which staunchly supported Baghdad in its war with Iran. Jordan now hopes that an end to the war will help to revive its economy.

Trade Minister Hamdi Al Tabaa told Reuters last week that peace between Iraq and Iran would increase Iraqi investment in Jordan, reduce Jordan's unemployment rates and invigorate the contracting and banking sectors.

Fed's move will fail to lower inflation, say economists

US economic expansion faces critical test

WASHINGTON, Aug 28, (Reuters): America's almost six-year-old economic expansion faces a critical test in the run-up to the November presidential elections as upward pressure on interest rates continues worldwide, private economists say.

Most economists believe the rise in US interest rates that triggered a global round of similar increases was needed to slow the booming US economy and bring down the inflation rate.

But the danger, some economists say, is that a slight miscalculation could cause far-reaching damage.

The period ahead could be difficult," said Zaharo Sofianou, an economist with the Boston Company, an economic forecasting firm. "Countries seem to have an acceptance threshold ratio for inflation and a lot of them are reaching it."

Expansion

The current economic expansion is the pride of the Reagan White House and Republican presidential candidate George Bush is telling voters he is best suited to continue the economic prosperity.

But the Republican candidate faces the prospect of interest rates continuing to rise.

The Federal Reserve Board, continuing to label inflation as the greatest risk to overall economic health, raised the key discount rate on August 9 to 6.5 percent from six percent.

Moves

The move showed Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan is willing to press strong economic measures during a presidential year. But many economists believe the Fed's move will fail to lower inflation and interest rates will continue to rise.

The consumer price index, the most widely used measure of

inflation, has so far risen this year at a 4.5 per cent annual rate, compared to a 4.4 per cent in 1987.

Trying to fine-tune an economy is usually hazardous and some economists believe that monetary moves following the October 19 stock market crash set the stage for the present rise in inflation.

"Everyone erred following October 19," said Georgia State University economist Donald Ratajczak.

He said the Fed eased the credit supply following the crash in the belief that consumption would be sharply curtailed and the United States would be

thrown into a recession or even a depression.

"It didn't happen and we're feeling the impact now," he said, adding "now they're trying to reverse that impact, it's stop and go and it's dangerous."

Experts

Many experts believe a public disagreement between the United States and West Germany helped trigger fears of an interest rate battle before the October 19 Wall Street debacle that saw the Dow Jones industrial average plummet 508 points.

For Reagan administration policy makers, the current situation is nerve-wracking.

They are hoping to get through the next two and a half months without an economic calamity which would prevent Vice-President Bush from being elected to the White House.

They are wholly focused on avoiding any disruption before the election," said Fred Bergsten of the Institute for International Economics.

Action

He said other economists were going along with the view that the Reagan administration is in no position to take forceful action and without US leadership it would be difficult to accomplish any major new co-ordinated measures.



The Secretary-General of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Dr Subroto, visited the headquarters of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) yesterday. He was accompanied by the undersecretary of the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources of Indonesia and the Indonesian ambassador to Kuwait. Subroto discussed co-operation between the two organisations. Dr Subroto, fifth from left, pictured with OAPEC representatives and other officials.

Arab Fund loan for South Yemen

ABU DHABI, Aug 28, (Reuters): The Arab Monetary Fund is lending South Yemen 6.1 million Arabs accounting dinars (\$25 million) to help finance budget and trade deficits, the Emirates news agency WAM reported today.

It said the loan, carrying interest of 5.2 and 6.4 percent, brought the total lent to South Yemen by the Abu Dhabi-based fund to 23.1 million dinars (\$9.3 million).

WAM said the loan agreement was signed in Damascus, where monetary officials of several Arab countries and organisations ended a conference today.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

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11	W. Win Brown 6	Sager	2432692
12	Tug Gulf Venture	Sager	2432692
13	Macrak Astro	Bchbehani	2412085
14	Samuel Francis	GHO	4747815
15	Adriatic Universal	GHO	4747815
17	White Jasmin	Al Bader	2433537
19	Kaneshima	Al Bader	2433537
21	Alyassah	L. Stock	2434177

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT

ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel.
29/8	Jolly Smaraldo	GH&Q	4747815
29/8	Mandana	Barwil	4842988
29/8	Katyazelenko	Alrashed	2422026
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NOAH AND AGASSI REACH HAMLET CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

Lendl and Becker fall in semifinals



Noah: upset Lendl

BOXING

Tyson wants 'charity' fight with Green to the finish

NEW YORK, Aug 28, (Reuter): Undisputed heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, who broke his right hand in a street fight with Mitch Green this week, was quoted yesterday as saying he wants to fight Green to the finish, for charity.

"I'll never fight him in a regular fight. The rules have to be that only one guy walks out of the ring," Tyson was quoted yesterday by the New York Post.

"I'm talking about a fight to the finish, a fight where one guy is really knocked out," Tyson said.

A student of boxing history, Tyson has often expressed admiration for boxers from the turn of the century who would fight until one was knocked out.

"It has to be for charity," said Tyson, who suffered a hairline fracture of his hand when he hit Green outside an all-night clothing store at about 4:30 am on Tuesday.

Exhibition

"I'll never fight him in a regular fight. But I'd fight him in an exhibition, a warmup bout," said Tyson about fellow-American Green.

Tyson, 22, who won the points decision in 1986, claims he was defending himself when he hit Green in the face. Green, who required several stitches at a hospital, charged Tyson with assault.

Tyson's injury has jeopardised his scheduled defence against Briton Frank Bruno at London's Wembley stadium on October 8.

Green agreed to drop assault charges against Tyson after Bill Clayton, Tyson's manager, sent a letter offering the 32-year-old Green a title shot should he be ranked in the top 10.

Yuh retains WBA junior flyweight title

SEOUL, Aug 28 (Reuter): South Korean champion Yuh Myung-Woo hammered Thailand's Punt Ohyuthnakorn to a sixth-round knockout to retain his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior flyweight title today.

It was the unbeaten champion's ninth successful defence of the title he won from Joey Oliver of the United States in December 1985.

Ohyuthnakorn went down after taking a stinging left hook to the body near the end of the sixth round of their scheduled 12-round bout in the southern city of Pusan.

US referee Eddie Eckert counted him out just two seconds before the close of the round.

Dropping

Yuh said afterwards: "I felt I could knock him out at the end of the fourth round when he began dropping his excellent cover and started swinging punches."

The Thai came out powerfully in the third and fourth rounds, scoring heavily with one-two combination blows.

Yuh turned the tide in the fifth, breaking the challenger's attacking pattern with a string of hard straight punches.

The Korean was in command for the rest of the fight, pursuing his opponent and shaking him repeatedly with flurries of blows.

Today's victory improved the South Korean's professional record to 28 wins, nine by knockout.

Steelers founder

PITTSBURGH, Aug 28 (AP): Art Rooney Sr, founder of pro football's Pittsburgh Steelers, was buried yesterday following a funeral service attended by national football club owners, former players and fans.

JERICHO, New York, Aug 28, (Reuter): Yannick Noah of France upset Ivan Lendl in the semifinals of the Hamlet Challenge Cup tennis tournament yesterday, jolting the Czechoslovakian just days before he begins the defence of his US Open title.

In the other semifinal, American Andre Agassi won his 21st consecutive match yesterday, beating Boris Becker of West Germany 7-6 (7-1) 6-3.

Agassi's torrid pace has seen him climb from a world ranking in the 20s earlier this year to number four now.

Noah, ranked seventh in the world, produced 11 aces in eliminating the top seeded Lendl 6-3 6-2 in just 59 minutes.

Lendl, looking for his fourth consecutive title at the US Open, said the loss yesterday would not affect his preparation for the New York tournament, which begins tomorrow.

No one has won more than three consecutive US Open titles since American Bill Tilden won his fourth in 1923. He went on to win two more in a row.

"I have always used this week to get ready for the Open," said Lendl, who lost in the Hamlet quarterfinals last year and then went on to win the Open title.

"I have had three good matches here. It's always better to win than lose, but I'm ready," Lendl said. "Noah played very good, but if I played my best this week I'd be worried."

Noah broke Lendl's service in the eighth game of the first set and in the third and seventh games of the second set.

Noah rallied from 0-30 on the third game of the first set and from 15-40 in the sixth game of the second set.

"I served very well, the best I have served in a long time," Noah said. "It was a good match against Ivan. He's never easy."

Agassi, who was to play Noah

for the first time in this evening's final, avenged a loss to Becker last March.

"This time Boris came in on my second service only twice," Agassi said. "My service has improved. I feel more like I dominate a match."

Becker said he "was flat. I was moving slow. Agassi has improved. He has more confidence and with confidence you can hit any ball to the line."

Becker, ranked fifth in the world and seeded third here, missed one break point in the first set, as they went on service to the tiebreak.

Point

The West German, ranked fifth in the world, won the first point of the tiebreak and Agassi won 15 of the next 16 points to run out the first set 15-0 and take a 2-0, 15-0 lead in the second set.

Agassi, seeded second, rallied from 15-40 in the third game and from 30-40 in the fifth game of the second set to eliminate Becker.

Malceva

Malceva broke Tauziat in the first game of each set but Tauziat was unfazed, using a potent forehand shot down the line to continually open up the court for winning points.

It was Tauziat's second upset in as many days. She eliminated fourth-seed Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Process

Graf has beaten Tauziat five straight times, losing only 18 games in the process.

Graf, who stands on the threshold of winning the Grand Slam at the upcoming US Open, was devastating in beating the Czechoslovakian star, ranked seventh in the world, in just 50 minutes. Graf won the first five games and the last six games.

"If I play this well, I don't think anybody can beat me," said the 19-year-old Graf.

"I thought it would be a harder match but I played too well and she wasn't able to win many points in each set."

Graf, who has dropped only a set to Martina Navratilova in the final at Wimbledon during her



Graf: crushed Sukova

when a solid forehand return produced a backhand error by the underdog. Sukova finally won her first game when she held in the sixth with a fine backhand volley. Graf overpowered her to close it out in the seventh game at 30 to end the first set in 23 minutes.

Sukova said she felt powerless against the deep penetrating shot being unleashed by Graf.

"I tried to attack off the second serve and that didn't work," said the 23-year-old Graf.

In the first, Graf broke Sukova in the second game on an approach shot by the Czech that went wide and in the fourth game

Graf and Tauziat in final

MAHWAH, New Jersey, Aug 28, (Reuter): Steffi Graf of West Germany was in her best form yesterday, extending her winning streak to 27 consecutive matches as she crushed Helena Sukova, 6-1 6-1 in semifinals of the \$200,000 Mahwah Classic.

In a night semifinal match, 34th-ranked Nathalie Tauziat of France came from behind in each set and upset 15th-ranked Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-4 6-3.

Maleeva broke Tauziat in the first game of each set but Tauziat was unfazed, using a potent forehand shot down the line to continually open up the court for winning points.

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"I thought it would be a harder match but I played too well and she wasn't able to win many points in each set."

Graf, who has dropped only a set to Martina Navratilova in the final at Wimbledon during her

winning streak, has a chance to surpass the \$1 million mark for the year if she wins the \$40,000 top prize here this evening. The West German star, winner of seven tournaments in 1988, enters the title round with earnings of \$369,273.

"It's a good feeling when I'm playing this way, it's a real joy," said Graf, whose only losses in 55 matches this year have been two defeats to doubles partner Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina.

In the first, Graf broke Sukova in the second game on an approach shot by the Czech that went wide and in the fourth game

Allen helps Bordeaux close gap on PSG

PARIS, Aug 28, (Reuter): Two second half goals by English striker Clive Allen gave Bordeaux a 2-0 home win over Strasbourg yesterday and drew them within one point of French Soccer leaders Paris Saint-Germain.

The Paris club, who had only conceded one goal in their previous seven games, twice came from behind in the crucial match of the night to salvage a 2-2 draw with Auxerre.

In Paris, Bryan Smith and Joe Hesketh combined on a six-hitter as Montreal beat San Diego, 4-0. Smith, 9-8, pitched seven innings allowing five hits in winning for the first time in four starts. Hesketh worked two innings for his seventh save. It was the Expos' 10th shutout.

Allen, signed from Tottenham Hotspur in the close season, saw Strasbourg keeper Philippe Fluckinger save his 55th minute penalty in what had, until then, been an insipid match.

Error

But he made up for his error and enlivened proceedings by opening the score six minutes later, then he wrapped things up with a brilliant effort in the last minute of the game.

Allen co-leads the scorers with six goals, the same as PSG's French international Daniel Xerach who scored his team's second against Auxerre.

All the goals at the Parc des Princes came in a pulsating first half. Auxerre's Yugoslav mid-fielder Marko Mlinaric surprised Paris keeper Joel Bats with a 30-minute blockbuster after only four minutes. But his compatriot Safet Susic equalised within two minutes.

Mlinaric put his side ahead again with a superb goal after a 12-second stoppage in the second period.

Results

Bordeaux	2	Strasbourg	0
Caen	2	Lille	1
Caen	2	Strasbourg	1
Laval	0	Montpellier	1
Lens	1	Montpellier	2
Marsella	1	Toulouse	2
Monaco	1	Toulouse	2
Nantes	1	Saint-Etienne	1
PSG	1	Auxerre	2
Toulouse	0	Nice	0

Jansher tames Dittmar for Open title

Jansher: close win

AUCKLAND, Aug 28, (Reuter): World number one Jansher Khan of Pakistan today won a brilliant recovery by Australian Chris Dittmar to win the New Zealand Open men's squash title 9-0 9-7 5-9 9-7.

Jansher raced away to a two-game lead before the left-handed Dittmar fought back to level the score and at 8-7 to Jansher in the fifth game with Dittmar serving. The match was in the balance.

It was the closest Dittmar, the world number three, had come to defeating Jansher after several tough previous encounters and later blamed his loss on the poor start.

After losing the first game in 19 minutes Dittmar led 6-2 in the second without being able to finish off.

The tall, slim Pakistani excelled with his drop shots and retrieving skills.

World women's champion Susan Devoy of New Zealand won her fifth consecutive New Zealand Open title with a 10-8 9-5 9-4 win against number two seed Lisa Opie of England.

Opie had game hall at 8-6 in the first set but was unable to build on the lead to take the game.

Thereafter, Opie continued to trouble Devoy at the front of the court with her drop and boast shots but made too many mistakes to push Devoy any further.

Critics

"Had it not been for (goalkeeper) Dave Beasant we could have had seven or eight."

Arsenal manager George Graham was delighted for Smith who has had his fair share of critics since moving to Highbury from Leicester.

"Alan's not a high-profile player and doesn't get the recognition he deserves," said Graham. "But he's a good no-nonsense finisher. He took his chances well."

Arsenal's superiority was such that Wimbledon manager Bobby Gould said they were London's best bet to break the Merseyside stranglehold on the championship — won for the past seven seasons by either Liverpool or Everton.



Aldridge: five goals in two matches



Rush: one of the best in the world

Charlton manager Lennie Lawrence was honest enough to admit that his side were "simply outclassed."

He said: "We are in the same

division as them, but we are trying to do different things. The First Division is in effect two Leagues these days. There are the big boys and the little boys."

Charlton manager Lennie Lawrence was honest enough to admit that his side were "simply outclassed."

He said: "We are in the same

**Clarke takes
Surrey past
Lancashire**

LONDON, Aug 28. (Reuter): West Indian fast bowler Sykes Clarke grabbed a 10-wicket match haul for the second time this season as Surrey beat Lancashire by an innings and one run in their English county cricket match at the Oval yesterday.

Clarke took six for 60 as Lancashire lost their last eight wickets for 96 to all out for 246 in their second innings with more than a day of their four-day match remaining. The paceman took four for 29 as Lancashire made a meagre first innings total of 84.

Clarke did not have to bowl short to make the ball fly off a pitch which had developed uneven bounce and Graeme Fowler, who defied the Surrey attack for three hours, had already been struck on the helmet before he was finally dismissed for 97.

Championship leaders Kent, needing 235 to win, face a difficult target on the final day of their match against Sussex at Maidstone after losing four wickets for 76 in their second innings.

Highest

Paul Parker's fifth century of the season helped Sussex to a second innings 359, their highest score of the season, as they staged a fightback after trailing by 49 runs.

Parker's 124 off 181 balls included 18 boundaries and he shared in a second wicket stand of 168 with Neil Lenham who made 74.

However, it was a day of frustration for second-placed Worcestershire, who are 16 points behind Kent, as rain prevented any play in their match against Warwickshire at Worcester.

Roh Bailey's third century of the season enabled Northamptonshire to build up a potentially match-winning lead over Derbyshire at Northampton.

He hit 13 fours in his 110 as Northants reached 293 for seven in their second innings, a lead of 226.

Sri Lanka face difficult task

LONDON, Aug 28. (Reuter): Sri Lankan captain Ranjan Madugalle said his side faced a near impossible task in trying to avoid defeat in the cricket Test against England at Lord's.

With two days to play, Sri Lanka are 92 for two in their second innings, still needing 143 to make England hat again.

"I've not brought any magicians along," Madugalle said.

"But we will certainly try to get out of the cold with the eight wickets remaining and certainly intend to do a lot better than we did in the first innings."

England skipper Graham Gooch said his team's total of 429 had fallen short of the target he would have liked.

"Ideally I would have liked to have seen us bat throughout the first two sessions, built up a lead of 300 and then put them in shortly after," he said.

"We didn't quite get enough but even so 235 is a fair lead and we are still in a very strong position to win the match."

Olympic flame arrives in Pusan



The mascot tiger for the Games waves a flag in front of the cauldron which was lit in Yongdusan Park. (Reuter wirephoto)

PROST CONCEDES WORLD TITLE TO TEAM-MATE

Senna wins Belgian GP to take clear lead

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium, Aug 28. (Reuter): Frenchman Alain Prost said his world title hopes had all but ended today after McLaren team-mate Ayrton Senna established a clear lead in the Drivers' Championship for the first time with a convincing win in the Belgian Grand Prix.

Prost finished 30 seconds behind Senna in second place for the third consecutive race, then effectively conceded the title to the Brazilian, who scored his fourth successive victory in typically remorseless style.

"I think it's over," said Prost. "I know it is not over mathematically, but I cannot really hope to win four of five races. That would be too difficult.

Deserves

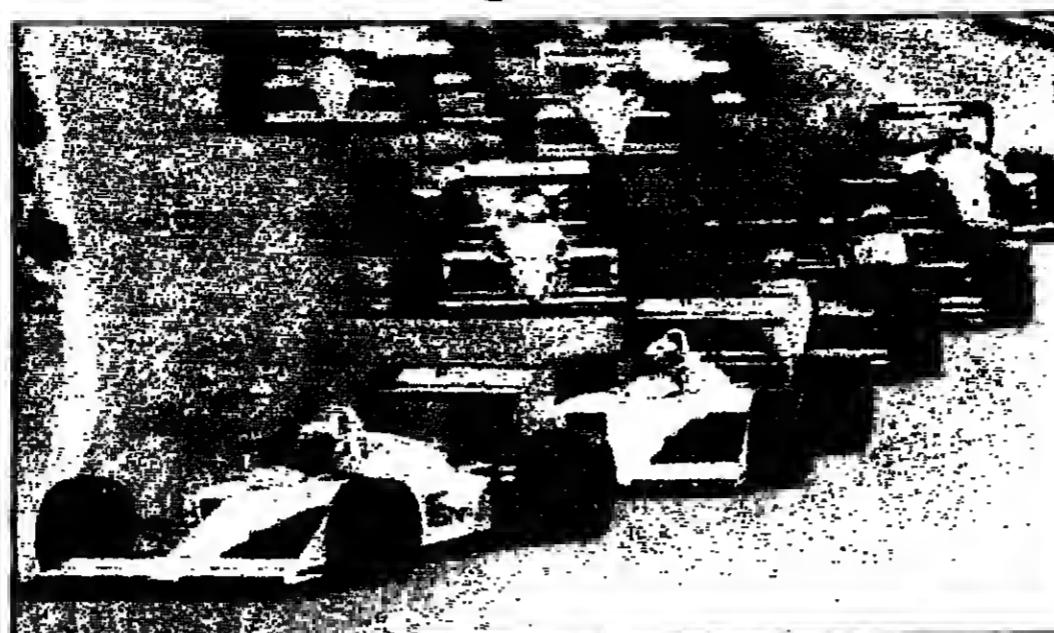
"I think Ayrton is going to win the World Championship and deserves to, for what he has done this year and the last two or three years."

"Ayrton has had a fantastic season and I am not stupid. The pressure will be off me now."

On a rare dry afternoon in the Ardennes, Senna, starting from pole position for the 25th time, was beaten off the grid by Prost, who swept head at the La Source hairpin.

But he quickly recovered, regained the lead on the opening lap and went on to claim his sixth win in seven races, seventh of the season and 13th of his career.

Senna's victory lifted him to 75 points in the title race, three ahead of Prost, who also trails



Prost is followed by Senna and Gerhard Berger as they take the first curve. (Reuter wirephoto)

more significantly in victories — seven to four.

Senna and Prost were followed home by the Benettons of Belgian Thierry Boutsen and Italian Alessandro Nannini.

It was a fine way for Benetton to celebrate their 100th Grand Prix and for their 300th Formula One engine suppliers.

Italian Ivan Capelli, eighth with eight laps to go, fought his way to fifth place for March ahead of world champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil, who was sixth in a Lotus.

Senna's remarkable sequence of success helped him and his all-

conquering McLaren team establish two major records.

His seven wins drew him level with Prost and Britain Jim Clark in sharing the record for the most victories in a single season. With five races to go, Senna is almost certain to establish a new landmark.

Austrian Gerhard Berger pulled out with an electrical problem after nine laps and Italian Michele Alboreto with a blown engine eight laps from the end when he was third.

Both Ferraris were using a new generation turbo engine, designed to produce improved fuel economy, for the first time.



Senna raises his trophy after winning the Grand Prix. (Reuter wirephoto)

with five races to go, have already totalled 147 points.

Once Senna and Prost had settled into their familiar positions at the head of the field only one result was likely today, particularly when both Ferraris were forced to retire.

Austrian Gerhard Berger pulled out with an electrical problem after nine laps and Italian Michele Alboreto with a blown engine eight laps from the end when he was third.

Both Ferraris were using a new generation turbo engine, designed to produce improved fuel economy, for the first time.

Lawson regains 500cc world title

BRNO, Czechoslovakia, Aug 28. (Reuter): American Eddie Lawson regained the 500cc world motorcycling champion today with a cool, calculated ride into second place at the Czechoslovak Grand Prix.

Lawson rode a clever race, climbing up the field from seventh at the start to finish behind reigning world champion Wayne Gardner of Australia.

Gardner was in dominant form on his Honda, taking a big lead on the first lap and never coming under pressure again.

But despite his victory he is 20 points behind Lawson with one

race still scheduled. He could still equal the points tally of Lawson, the 1986 champion, by winning next month's Brazilian Grand Prix, if the American does not score at all.

But Lawson would still take the title because he has scored six wins this year, while Gardner has taken only four and victories are the deciding factor in case of a point tie.

Shooting

"Everything worked fine," said Lawson after the race. "We got second place and that's what we were shooting for. Finally we made it. It has been a long, hard

race still scheduled. He could still equal the points tally of Lawson, the 1986 champion, by winning next month's Brazilian Grand Prix, if the American does not score at all.

Yesterday's cancellation of the Argentine Grand Prix, which should have been the second last round of the season, finally put the title out of Gardner's reach.

Asked if he was disappointed that the cancellation had made it impossible for him to overhaul Lawson, Gardner said: "It was a remote chance. Next year we'll come back and have another go."

Third was the Yamaha of American Wayne Rainey, who

scored his first Grand Prix win in Britain earlier this month. He is certain of third place in the overall standings.

Outside the 500cc race, Spaniard Jorge Martinez was in a class of his own. He came to Brno with an unbeatable championship lead in both the 80cc and 125cc classes but was not satisfied to leave it at that. To cap an outstanding season he won both races, the last of the season, on Derbi bikes.

More Spaniards took the top places in the 250cc race. Juan Garriga rode his Yamaha to victory ahead of the Honda of Sito Pons.

Alen wins 1,000 Lakes Rally for sixth time

JYVASKYLA, Finland, Aug 28. (Reuter): Markku Alen of Finland, driving a Lancia Integrale, profited from the misfortune of fellow-Finno Juha Kankunen to win the 1,000 Lakes Motor Rally for the sixth time today.

Swede Mikael Ericsson, also in a Lancia Integrale, finished second and France's Didier Auriol was third in a Ford Sierra Cosworth.

Alen, whose total time for the 39 stages was four hours 35 minutes 29 seconds, had trailed Kankunen in a Toyota Celica, by three seconds after 33 stages.

But Kankunen, world champion in 1986 and 1987 and seeking to win this event for the first time, was forced to retire during the next special stage with gearbox problems.

Up to that point the Finns had been within seconds of each other throughout the race. Kankunen led by 19 seconds after Friday's 12 stages but trailed Alen by 11 seconds midway through yesterday's punishing 16 hours of rallying.

As full dancers gyrated to the boomerang of drums and gongs, the last rider touched his torch to the torch of one carried by Cheju governor Lee Goon-Bo, who then passed the flame to the Olympia's captain.

The captain lit the cauldron on the ship's upper deck.

Tugs manoeuvred the ship away from the pier, raising salutes with their fire hoses, and ships in the harbour sounded a long whistle blast in unison while spectators waved South Korean and Olympic flags.

Escort

More than half a dozen naval vessels moved into position to escort the Olympia, and five Air Force jets thundered overhead, trailing red, yellow, green and purple smoke.

The flame is to reach the Games' opening ceremonies in Seoul on Sept 17 after a 22-day, 4,168km (2,605 miles) zigzag relay through major cities in the country.

On Cheju, the flame made a 204km-(127.5 mile) circle around the island, popular with honeymooners.

This morning, riders on Cheju ponies carried the torch about three miles to the harbour, where several thousand people were waiting, along with boy and girl scouts carrying the flags of the 161 nations entered in the Seoul Games.

As full dancers gyrated to the boomerang of drums and gongs, the last rider touched his torch to the torch of one carried by Cheju governor Lee Goon-Bo, who then passed the flame to the Olympia's captain.

The captain lit the cauldron on the ship's upper deck.

Tugs manoeuvred the ship away from the pier, raising salutes with their fire hoses, and ships in the harbour sounded a long whistle blast in unison while spectators waved South Korean and Olympic flags.

Escort

More than half a dozen naval vessels moved into position to escort the Olympia, and five Air Force jets thundered overhead, trailing red, yellow, green and purple smoke.

The flame is to reach the

Coe records fast time

KOBLENZ, West Germany, Aug 28. (Reuter): Sebastian Coe, controversially discarded from the British team for the Seoul Olympics, recorded the seventh best time of the year for the 800 metres but was beaten by Jose Luis Barrios of Brazil at an international meeting here today.

Their performances were overshadowed by a remarkable solo run by Jim Spivey of the United States, who left the field in his wake to win the 1,500 metres in three minutes 31.01 seconds — the second best time of 1988.

Coe, twice Olympic 1,500 metre champion, was unrecognisable from his performance at last month's British Olympic trials, and even from his slow second place on Friday at a meeting in West Berlin. He turned in a sharp one minute 43.93 seconds

— only the fifth man this year to break the 1:44 barrier.

But Barrios, underlined that he is a major medal prospect for Seoul, crossing the line in one minute 43.34 seconds, the fourth best time of 1988. He already holds the year's third-best performance.

Coe's time was just short of compatriot Steve Cram's best run this year, but easily ahead of Peter Elliot and Tom McLean — the men whose selection led to Coe's controversial omission.

Spivey, another Olympic reject after coming only fourth in the US trials in Indianapolis, ran the last lap on his own, leaving Spain Jose Luis Gonzalez far behind him in 3:36.41 seconds.

His winning time was faster than Briton's Steve Ovett's then-world record set here seven years ago.

Aouita and Cram triumph

LONDON, Aug 28. (AP): Said Aouita and Steve Cram, still avoiding each other before their expected showdown in Seoul, brought the British track season to a close today with a pair of impressive pre-Olympic victories at an international invitation meeting.

Aouita, with the fastest time in the world this year, won the 1,000 metres at the McVitie's Challenge Invitational event in 2:15.16 to maintain his unbeaten record this season after 17 races at a variety of distances.

Cram, who vies with the

Moroccan for the 800 and 1,500-metre titles in Seoul, chose the 2,000 metres for his last home appearance before the Games and set a British all-comers record of 4:55.20.

Both runners now go on to Rieti, Italy, on Wednesday, to wind up their Olympic preparations.

Aouita, world record holder at 1,500 and 5,000 metres and the Olympic 5,000 metre champion, was never troubled in his only British appearance of the summer.

Punjab beat Bright Stars

PUNJAB Cricket Club (Fahad) beat Bright Stars by 41 runs to move into the finals of Capri Cup at the Samaya ground on Friday.

Imran, the Punjab captain, won the toss and elected to bat. Baber and Nadir opened the innings and seemed to be in a mood to thrash the Bright Stars bowlers. In the 2nd over of the innings, Arshad Pindival was hit for 20 runs which included two sixes and a four.

The openers put on 47 runs in the first three overs before Baber misjudged a full toss and was bowled for 28. He hit four sixes. Nadir was the next to be out after scoring 31 with the help of a six and four fours.

Pressure

Robin, who dismissed Nadir, also got rid of Aslam and Asghar in quick succession to put pressure on the Punjab batsmen. Hafiz Khalid and Iftekhar, however, stood their ground and hit any loose delivery that was thrown at them.

Hafiz was very harsh on the Bright Stars bowlers, hitting five sixes and a four before he was out for 42. Iftekhar contributed 23 valuable runs as Punjab managed to score 157 before being all out in 23.3 overs.

Asghar took three wickets for Punjab while Saleem, Imran and Hafiz Khalid got two each and Nadir one.

Nadeem was the main wicket-

keeper for Bright Stars with four for 37 while Robin got three for 37.

RESULTS of the Hubra Bridge Club games played on Saturday:

1. Sherin & Tawil Ahmed

2. Ghazi & Jassim

3. Kadoura & Matrouk

4. Mrs Pereira & D'Souza

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